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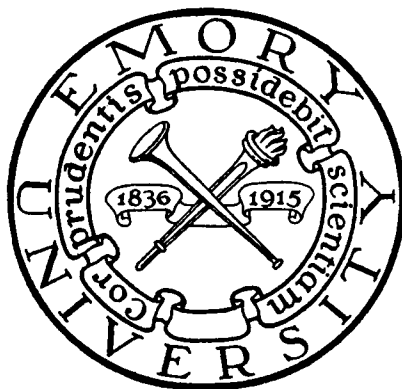
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MRS. BROWN

AT THE

PARIS EXHIBITION

BY

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AUTHOR OF "MRS. BROWN AT THE SKATING RINK," "THE  
BROWN PAPERS," "MRS. BROWN AT BRIGHTON,"  
ETC., ETC

LONDON AND NEW YORK

GEORGE ROUTLEDGE AND SONS

1878



# MRS. BROWN

## AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.



### PREFACE.

I ALWAYS 'ave said, and will say with my dyin' breath, as it ain't right for to look down on forriners like some people does, as didn't make theirselves, poor things, as the sayin' is, and would be English, in course, if they could, as they shows plain by the orful struggles as they makes for to speak English, as is only gibberish arter all; and, as to speakin' French, tho' in course if drove to it, I could; I 'adn't never tried, thro' never 'avin' wanted it, a-travellin' all over the Continong as I've been all about in jest as safe as babe at the breast, as the sayin' is, and wasn't never moslested nor yet spoke rude to, nothink 'arf so bad as in one of my own native buses, as is the places for rudeness, not to say insults, when you gets in, with only room for one, and bein' a full figger; tho' wot fools finds to larf at I can't think, tho' in course Mrs. Portlock ain't



no joke flop on your knee, as is over twenty stun, as runs in 'er family, partickler a-settin' down on a party as were a 'oldin' a ornament with a glass shade over it tied up in a hankercher in 'is lap, as were shivers in a instant, and wot with 'er screams, as said she felt the glass a-workin' into 'er constitution, but turned out to be 'er own sissors in the end, as she'd forgot to put the sheath on, nor yet a cork on the pints, as is a tamperin' with edge tools in my opinion, but not so bad as a paper of them large-size pins gettin' loose in your pocket, as might bring on gangreen, thro' bein' base metal, as I have knowed put into Stilton cheese for to imitate blue mould, as can't be 'olesome for the 'uman stomick; but not so bad as swallerin' 'em, for to 'ave to work theirselves out thro' the pores when open, like Mrs. Challin's gran'dorter, as were in the 'ospital for months, and doctors no notion wot were up with 'er, till a place like a pin's 'ead come out at 'er elber, as soon spread all over 'er body, and wot she went thro' a-sheddin' of them pins, nobody can't tell, as it's a mussy as they didn't work thro' 'er 'art, as they might 'ave easy took to, a-thinkin' of it a pincushin, as is often that shape.

For my part, I in general gets into a empty bus when a-startin', and gets a seat near the door, so as to slip out easy, like a eel; not but wot I get

orful kicks thro' parties a-comin' in with a rush, like bullocks broke loose, as 'ave got brooses now as I could show, not to mention corns, as is reg'lar trod down under foot, as cuts you to the quick.

As I was a-sayin', I have travelled that much as I feels at 'ome in a rail, and can sleep like my own bedstead; tho' as to forriners bein' perlite, I've knowed 'em quite as rude as Inglish about snorin'. I can't say as I 'olds with forrin ways, sich as not a-washin' till arter breakfast, and a-doin' of their 'air with their 'ands, and a many other trifles like that; and as to children, they shouldn't bring up a kitten by 'and for me; but all that's nothink to do with forriners, 'cos I 'ave known Inglish as dirty as they could 'old together, as the sayin' is; and all as I've got to say is, you must 'ave somethink for to put up with wherever you goes, as I tells the servant gals, as 'ave got their 'eads screwed on rong now-adays, I do believe, thro' all that cheap rubbish, as they spends every fardin' of wages on their backs.

Cos in course I'm one as did ought to speak, as 'ave made as many excursions as any Cook in my time, and went last year to them Low Countries, as they call 'em; not as I found parties any lower there than elsewhere, tho' certainly the Scotch is a 'arty race, thro' a-livin' up in them 'ighlans, so in course 'olds up their 'eads with anybody, as is more

than I could do with my bonnet last year in Edinburrer, as were whipped away, 'air and all, over the 'ills and far away ; as is all werry fine for them as is born to it, but don't suit me, as, tho' a good figger, am easy carried off my feet in a 'igh wind, a-comin' sudden round a corner. Not as that Scotch gent need 'ave been a-takin' out 'is mull, as he called it, jest as I come upon 'im, nor yet 'ave swore that orful over losin' of it, for I'm sure I never wanted it all a-flyin' in my face till I nearly snoze my 'ead off, and then to be called a driven old cow. Not as he knowed the right name for it, a-callin' of it coo, as is only wot pigeons does on the roof of the 'ouse down at Liza's, as I can't never get a wink arter daylight, partickler with Brown a-gettin' up for to breathe the early mornin' hair. As for my part, I enjoys a deal more with the chill took off of it, as is why I don't never like startin' like a 'are, as the sayin is, first thing in the mornin', as is nothink now to what it used to be when I was a gal, a-gettin' up by a rushlight, with the soap froze 'ard to the little wooden bowl, as it did used be kep' in—with chilblains as broke with werry often proud flesh, as they did used to burn off with witrol, tho' I 'ave 'eard say as sugar will do it, but 'ow sugar can burn without a light I can't think, tho' its frightful when set a-blazin', for I shan't never forget a sugar-baker's a-burnin' out

Whitechapel way, as you could read by 'arf a mile off, and was nearly all Germins, so in course throwed out of work, but that savin' agin a rainy day, as they never required no 'elp from the parish, as they wouldn't 'ave got thro' bein' forriners, as would in course 'ave been passed to their own parish, as must be on the Continong. Tho' I never 'eard of no parishes bein' over there, tho' I 'ave see a party in a cock 'at in the churches, as looked the beadle all over. Not as I considered 'im a wearin' of 'is 'at in church proper respect, tho' he might 'ave been a Jew, as it is their way the same as the Turks, for to keep their 'eads covered, and I'm sure I've seen parties in France be'ave in church as no Jew wouldn't think of doin'.

But, as I were a-sayin', travellin' and everything else was a deal 'arder when I was a gal, and I ain't sure but wot it made young people contented as ain't never satisfied nowadays, and turns up their noses over moist sugar in their tea; and as to tea, they uses it for all the world as if they was the Umpire of Chinee 'isself. I did used to think two ounces a week liberal, and now goes in for three-quarters of a pound, when they did used to be thankful for the tea-pot when done with, as in course is werry well, when there's only two upstairs to take it, and not second water put in the pot; tho' I have knowed a servant as lived with a old lady down Chelsea

way as always made the tea in the kitchen, and 'ad a good cup 'erself, if not two, afore ever she took it upstairs, as is wot I calls under'and ways, as no respectable servant wouldn't stoop to. Not as the old lady missed it, for she put in three spoons and a bit, and always took water in her own, as was never but a cup and a 'arf, with extra tea if a friend looked in.

Ah ! she was a old lady as died jest fifty year ago, painted up to her eyes like Queen Jessybell, as tired 'er 'ead in lookin' so long out of the winder for 'er son to come back, as he never did come thro' bein' beat in the battle ; not as ever I did 'old with them waggerbones a-throwin' 'er out of the winder to the dogs ; not but wot it come 'ome to 'er for bein' a reglar bad lot, the same as Queen Lizzybeth, cos you'll remember werry well as she wouldn't be put to bed, but lay a-dyin' like a dog on the floor, till she were forced to give in ; not as anybody cared 'ow she died, cos them as 'ad got all they could out of 'er took and turned their backs on 'er, as in course nobody didn't 'ave no respect for, thro' bein' a reglar bad 'un, as is sure to come 'ome to parties afore they dies, cos, like a many more as does rong, she 'ad a good time in this world, with all them parties a-flatterin' 'er, and sayin' as she were a lovely wirgin Queen when nearly seventy ; but in course she hadn't many left in the end, cos

she cut off their 'eads right and left, so in course they 'ated 'er in their 'arts.

Cos it's all werry fine, but nobody can't bear them overbearin' tempers, cos you'll never tell me as parties would turn agin Queen Wictorier, not even if the Prince of Wales was to be conkered in battle; not they. Why, they'd take and turn to, and give the Rooshins, or even the Prooshins, let alone the Merrykins, sich a lickin' as would make them rue the day as ever they roused the British Lion, thro' a-darin' to touch is air apparint.

But I must say as that old lady at Chelsea she did keep the game up to the werry last, as set up in bed and painted 'er cheeks the day she died with a new wig and cap on, and asked 'ow she looked with 'er last breath; the same as a old parsin down in the country as died at past ninety, as dressed 'isself in 'is werry best, leastways made them as was about 'im do it, with 'is 'air powdered, and silk stockin's and pumps, and wouldn't go to bed, but died on 'is sofy, as was a good riddance, for he'd been a reglar model pestilence, as the sayin' is, over fifty years in that one parish. So 'im and that old lady would be a nice pair; not as she'd 'ave anythink to do with no parsins, for when a aunt of mine as was a-nussin' 'er asked 'er the night afore she died whether she wouldn't like to see a minister, the old woman pretty nigh swore,

as said as she were a follerer of Woltaire, as were of the Germin perswasbun, and didn't believe in nothink but the Hemperor, the same as old Beast-mark, as is not so good as a 'eathen Turk, as does believe in somethink, if it is only Haller. Not as I 'olds with Turks, nor yet fancies Rooshins, and can't 'elp a-feelin' uneasy myself over this ere war a-comin' on, partikler since that there wessel as they called the Uridissy went down like that, with every sail set, as is jest 'ow them young Weglins was drowned one Easter time in the river Lee, as is wot you might espect in a couple of hignorant boys, but didn't ought to 'appen with a ship in full sail; as would make the Rcoshins jeer if they was to see all our fleet go down like that, and wot 'appens to one might 'appen to a 'undred in a 'igh wind.

But as to pollytics, they gets wuss and wuss; and as to Parlymint, it ain't no good, cos jest as we're all a-waitin' for every wire to bring us news, why Parlymint takes and breaks up like a boardin'-school for Easter 'ollydays; as is all werry well from Thursday to Tuesday, but to take three weeks is a reglar swindle, and in course comes out of the parints' pockets, not but wot that there Lord Bacins-field must want a 'ollyday arter them long speeches as he've been a-makin' all about nothink; and as to peace, it seems as far off as ever.

It's my opinion as Parlymint 'ave too much to do, leastways interferes in too many things as other parties could do jest as well if not better; cos in course drains, and sich like, is open questions as Parlymint needn't go a-pokin' of their noses into, the same as makin' bishops, as some considers necessary evils, tho' they don't seem much use, yet in course you must find work for everybody, tho' in course wot's everybody's work ain't nobody's, as the sayin' is.

But I'm sure 'owever Government gets on at all surprises me, as 'ave to find out all about everythink as is goin' on everywhere, and some a-turnin' sulky, like that there Lord Darby, and backin' down on their friends, as they do say as it were not so much 'im as 'is good lady as 'ad a row with another minister's good lady, thro' bein' relations, as always will fall out, partikler a stepmother, as in course ain't got no natral feelin' for the children of the fust, partikler with a second family to be purwided for; not but wot Lord Darby 'ave got plenty for to purwide for 'is good lady's family by 'er fust, as in course he can't look on like 'is, tho' I've 'eard say a kind-'carted man in a genral way, tho' preaps put out at 'avin' none of 'is own.

But law, when I sees all them great potentates all together that quiet at Madame Tussor's, I often thinks as there's a many as is livin' now as wishes



theirselves waxworks, if only to be at peace; as always gives me a turn, thro' bein' that natral jest like death, as is wot we must all come to, tho' we shan't all be showed arter death, as is a solemn thought, to be a-layin' in state like Wictor Manuel, with 'is own son a-standin' there as King Umberg, and with the Pope at 'is elber, as all seems friendly enuf, as shows wot foolishness it is for to quarrel in this life, as must all come to the same thing in the end.

That is why Brown won't never 'ave no family rows, nor nothink even like words; cos he says, if you can't meet without a quarrelin' don't meet at all, as the world is wide enuf for all, tho' some'ow you're pretty sure to come bump up agin the people, as you don't like, the same as me a-gettin' into the same bus with Brown's 'arf-sister's 'usban', as 'ad be'aved that shameful over 'is mother's bit of property, and I'm sure if I'd 'ave thought he'd 'ave been in 'is grave under the month, I'd 'ave 'eld out my 'and, cos I can't a-bear them resentments as is carried out of this world with you, tho' my consence is clear and so is Brown's, as said, let 'em keep the two 'ouses rather than go to law; not but preaps if we'd got that I should 'ave been more ready for to go to Paris for to see that Exhibition, as Brown told me weren't near finished, tho' wot we did get were pretty 'ansome.

For my part, I'm like Queen Victorier, werry nigh sick of exhibitions, as there's been too many on a-ready, and wouldn't go across the street to look at, escept Madam Tussor, as is as nat'ral as life, and twice as 'ansome ; and I'm sure the fust time as I see it, were that took a-back thro' a-thinkin' as they was all 'uman bein's as 'ad been putrified sudden', as is a many years ago ; and when I got into the room, and Brown says to me, for we was keepin' company, "Martha," he says, "wot do you think of waxwork?"

I says, "Don't talk to me about waxwork, cos I never will believe as it can be done in wax, cos wot is wax when you comes to think on it, but wot bees makes ; leastways, wot they makes for to keep their 'oney in, poor things, as is that industrious creeturs a-buildin' of their sells, as fetches a 'igh price I 'ave 'eard say, and lots of them candles as is called wax, ain't no more wax than me."

"Ah!" says Brown, "there's tricks in all trades, as the sayin' is."

"Ah!" I says, "and I'm sure I won't never believe as that were 'ow it come about, as Mortimer as married Melia Elps, proved to be a smasher thro' failin' in the wax and taller line, as I always said if he'd 'ave stuck to 'is busyness the busyness would 'ave stuck to 'im ; the same as old Melton, as 'ad a wooden leg and a swivel eye, as 'ad a cobbler's stall close agin the Fisherman's Arms'ouse, near old

Chelsea Church, as is all pulled down now, as stuck 'is trade from mornin' till night; not as that were any escuse for that grandson of is'n a-darin' to put wax end on the bench as he did used to set on, as fixed 'im to it as firm as a rock, as the sayin' is, as couldn't be got out thro' bein' built into the wall, so 'ad to cut the seat out of 'is unmenshunables, and tear 'em off, or he'd 'ave been settin' there now. Not but wot I believe the boy were a-speakin' the truth, when he said as 'is grandmother put 'im up to it, for I've 'eard 'er say myself, when the old man wouldn't go out for a day's pleshurin', as she wished as he were stuck to the place, as no doubt give the boy the idea in 'is 'ead. But as to Melton, he weren't no good, as never wouldn't go to church nor chapel neither, and wouldn't clean 'isself up of a Sunday, and struck a party as come to give 'im a track, as he were 'ad up for, and got ten days for 'is pains, as were 'is death, for they give 'im a bath in pris'n, as struck to his chest and settled on 'is lungs, for he only lingered seven years arter, as might 'ave lived to a 'undred but for that, and were eighty-five two days afore 'is death, and well he might 'ave stuck to 'is stall, for if he hadn't got pretty near two 'undred pounds in gold, silver and copper as he'd been and 'id away under 'is bench, as wouldn't never 'ave been found but for that same grandson as 'ad waxed 'im down, a-pokin' about

the place with a bradall two days arter the old man were berried, as certingly 'ad a lovely 'earse and a board of feathers. But I must say as my feelin's was agin this Exhibition at Paris ; not as I likes to run anythink down, as is wot Brown calls bein' pig-'eaded."

It seems like a dream them two Exhibitions, as I've seen over there, partikler the fust, as Queen Wictorier went to see, a-lookin' that 'appy, as is all past and gone like a dream ; and the last time as I see 'er in the Park there was the same face a-goin' 'ome to Winsor, and give me a bow that grashus, with a smile ; but, law, what a change ! as made me go 'ome a-thinkin' as it's all a wishun what we sees in this world, as I should not 'ave thought so much about but for goin' to Madam Tussor's, for there you sees the end of so many as 'ave gone afore us as was bright and beautiful, but all gone, tho' they was kings and queens, as is now reduced to wax-work, and reminds us of wot we must all come to at last. And certingly they do look lovely, as their clothes must cost a little fortune, let alone 'avin' of their 'airs dressed constant, and bein' kep' in order, cos in course, tho' they are wax, they would decay if not kep' up to the mark, as would give way in the legs like other 'uman bein's, or somewheres, as is only mortal, like the rest on us.

Ah ! there's a many as you meets in a bus as

fresh as waxworks as 'ave got somethink a-killin' of them inside ; for wot is beauty but skin deep, as the sayin' is, and wot is waxwork but 'oney-comb. Ah, it is wonderful wot a lot of it them little creeturs makes, a little thinkin' as it may be turned into kings and queens some day ! It certingly is a wonderful sight ; but wot makes me tremble to think on is fire, for if all them parties was melted down they couldn't never be replaced, tho' no doubt the place is all fire-proof, jest like that there Pan-technicon, as they ain't never found out 'ow it come to ketch fire, thro' bein' iron and stone, so didn't ought to 'ave burnt, as were a 'eavy loss, no doubt, to many ; but, then, furniture can be made again, but not kings and queens as is dead and gone.

But talkin' of wax makes me think of bees, as poor old Mrs. Pullin kep', out by Mitcham, as did used to be the Physic Gardins, and lovely 'oney she sold, to be sure ; not as it's a thing as I cares for beyond jest a little bit of the wirgin 'oney. Poor Mrs. Pullin, she always took a pride in them bees, and 'ad a lodger as come down for quiet thro' bein' one of them littery parties as likes a quiet life, but some'ow or other them bees took and turned agin 'im the werry fust mornin' as he got there, for he was up early, and went for to set in the gardin with 'is books ; and it's lucky as a labourin' man come

by and see this 'ere lodger reglar set on by them bees, as come out of their 'ives like a regiment of sojers, and reglar let fly at 'im, and was a-swarmin' all over 'im, and would 'ave stung 'im to death, and was only droved off by a picklin'-pan as Mrs. Pullin brought out, as 'ad sugar and water in it, as they'd been fed out on in the winter, as they knowed the sight on in a minnit, and all took to that. As to that poor gentleman, he 'ad to be rubbed down with sweet ile and the blue-bag from 'ead to foot, as is a good thing for a sting, and went back to town that werry day, and arf frightened 'is own servant to death in openin' the door to 'im, thro' 'er a-thinkin' as he were a case of Collerer, as were werry bad about that summer, tho' not that orful scourge it 'ave been, when all over the place like a reglar academic, as the sayin' is. Not as that were as bad as young Joe Purbrick, as 'is father was in the 'olesale boot and shoe line near Nortin Folgit, as 'ad took a place down Leyton way, and went out a-untin' with a red coat and top-boots in Eppin' Forest one Easter time, as is where kings and queens did use to 'unt once on a time, as the books say, in their middle ages, as Brown were a-tellin' me about one time when we went out there a-pleasurin'; as might be all werry well for parties as is well on in life, as the sayin' is, to 'unt like that; but young Purbrick he were only jest turned twenty,

and weren't well on to 'is 'orse either, for the animal took and shied at a drove of bullicks in the road as stopped right in front of 'im, and was no doubt infuriated at the sight of Joe's red coat, as is a colour none of them 'orned beasts ever can a-bear; and if that 'orse didn't take and bolt like a shot, as the sayin' is, and then stopped short jest agin some palin's, and sent Joe a-flyin' over 'is 'ead, palin's and all, as fell onto a lot of bee-'ives, as would 'ave stung 'im to death, but they was nearly all out at work for the day; and he rolled into the muck-pond as was close by to save 'imself, as nearly smothered 'im, but in course kep' the bees off im; as only goes arter wot is sweet, tho' they 'overed about till they was 'ticed back to their 'omes thro' the 'ives bein' picked up, as was only two as Joe 'ad upset; as give 'im a lesson not to go a-'untin' no more, as brought down 'is pride, as were a-gettin' dreadful orty, and quite above the boot and shoe busyness; but that fall reglar steadied 'im, cos he took and married Miss Mubbs, the currier's dorter, as brought 'im thousins, tho' as plain a pair as you'd see in a day's walk, and no family, leastways not when last I 'eard of 'em.

So that's why I always thinks waxworks that wonderful, as you can turn to anythink, and then see 'ow tight it will 'old, for there ain't nothink like it for sealin' up a letter, nor yet a parcel, for that

matter, with the top of your thimble, as is worth all the gums and adhesive sticky things as ever I see, as can't be tampered with like a wafer over bilin' water, nor yet opened with a 'ot knife, and gummed up agin without leavin' a mark, for break a seal, and there it is broke, as can't be tampered with like a lock and then patched up agin, not to deceive any one as 'ave eyes in their 'eads and their wits about them, as the sayin' is.

But, law bless me, the things as parties will do out of curiosity, to be sure, even with sealin' wax ; cos that's 'ow it were as Mr. Twangle got in such trouble, over openin' a letter as he see addressed to 'is wife, leastways, he thought so, and took and opened it with 'oldin' of a red-'ot poker to the seal, and read as a party as 'ad been a-comin' to 'is 'ouse werry often adored Mrs. Twangle, as was over forty, and a reglar buckmouth, as the sayin' is, and as he weren't over fond on himself, but didn't choose as anyone else should be, so he seals up the letter agin, as asked her to meet the feller in the fields out Poplar way, and leaves it for 'is wife, as he watched a-readin' of it.

She didn't seem to see as it 'ad been opened, and only said, " Oh, indeed ! " but not a word about wot were in it.

She went out that artemnoon, a-sayin' as she were a-goin' to see 'er brother's wife ; so Twangle,



he didn't say nothink, but went out, too, jest as it were a-gettin' dusk, with a cap drored over 'is eyes, and a large cloak, and goes to them Poplar fields, as was very much deserted just then thro' the docks bein' enlarged.

He took and 'id 'isself behind a 'edge, and presently see 'is wife a-comin' along, and out he jumps right in front of 'er, jest in time to be collared by a man a-walkin' with 'er, as give 'im such a 'idin' with a thick stick, as made 'im roar out for mussy, and then 'eard 'is wife say,

"Why! if it ain't Twangle 'isself! Wotever brought you 'ere?"

"Why," he says, "wot brought you, you wile, false ooman?"

She says, "Why, I come along with my brother, to punish a waggerbone as 'ad the impidence to rite to me, as we both took you for the feller, and that's 'ow it is as Tom 'ave dropped into you so sharp."

"Yes," says Tom, "Susan wouldn't rest till I come with 'er to serve the owdacious waggerbone out."

"Wotever made 'im rite to you," says Twangle, "to ask you to meet 'im here?"

"Ow come you to know anythink about that?" says Mrs. Twangle.

So poor Twangle, he 'adn't a word to say, and were found out; and when they got the letter out,

and come to look at it agin, it was for Miss Twangle, as were 'is sister as lived along with them.

So 'ome they all went, to find Miss Twangle a-settin' there along with that same young man as 'ad rote the letter; and as she didn't meet 'im, 'ad come and made 'er a offer that werry evenin', as was in the stationery line in the Bow Road, and always used sealin' wax, cos he didn't never use them new-fangled antelopes as 'ad jest come in, thro' a thinkin' them bad for trade, as is foolishness, cos you can't go agin progress, as the sayin' is.

Not as I'm one to believe in it myself, leastways not the sham and 'umbug as they calls progress, as grows downwards like the cow's tail, as the sayin' is.

I don't think, tho', sealin' wax is gone out, as ever wax candles will ever go out too, not for all the gas and lamps as ever was invented, cos there ain't no light like 'em, in my opinion, and don't strike that 'eat on your 'ead, as I've 'eard ladies say as they ain't 'ardly been able to set a dinner out with five gas-burners a-blazin' over their 'eads like a furniss.

Not but wot gas is better for a bedroom, partikler for a dressin'-glass, as waxlights or candles is 'ighly dangerous, as is well bekown in dressin', as may catch a sleeve, or even let a spark fall; not but wot gas may burn you to death, if not careful, the same as a poor young thing as lived down

Chelsea way, next door but three to Aunt Mason, as I were a-stoppin' along with jest afore I got married.

Aunt were a wonderful experienced nuss, and we'd jest done supper, and 'er and me was a-waitin' to see the fireworks go off across the water, as was Woxall Gardins, thro' aunt's room a-lookin' on to the river.

Well, jest then there come a young woman to the door with a tap, a-sayin', "Would Mrs. Mason be that obligin' for to step in to Mrs. Partello, as 'er eldest dorter 'ad met with a axcident at the theayter?"

So aunt she went in accordin', and after a bit sent in for me, as met me 'erself at the door of the room, and says—

"Martha, you ain't afraid of nothink like death, are you?"

"No," I says, "aunt, not if I can be any use to livin' or dead."

"Well," she says, "then, come in."

So in I went, and never to my dyin' 'our shall I forget that sight. For there set a middle-age woman a-ringin' of 'er 'ands, and takin' on frightful; and there was a young gal 'arf faintin' on the floor, with two little children a-clingin' to 'er a-'idin' of their faces in 'er lap. I didn't take much notice on 'em, for the sight on the bed nearly struck me dumb

with 'orrer, as the sayin' is. For there was a-layin' a young creetur, with sich lovely fair 'air all over the pillow, but sich a face for sweetness, and all 'er poor neck and shoulders was bandaged and covered up in cotton, as I see in a instant was burns.

Aunt says to me, "'Elp me raise 'er a bit, cos 'er poor dear shoulder is frightful," and so we got 'er up a little bit, and dressed it fresh, as were burnt to the bone. I didn't ask no questions, cos I guessed as she must be a dancer, thro' pink silk stockin's, as aunt and me took off quite gentle, tho' the poor dear weren't burnt about the legs. She wasn't sensible like, not to know anythink but the doctor, as 'ad see 'er at the theayter, he come in, as was a dear, kind young feller from the 'ospital, as gentle as a lamb with 'er, as made 'er swaller somethink, and asked 'er if she were in pain, and she whispered no. So arter a bit he went away, tellin' aunt as it were a 'opeless case. So then aunt, as 'ad sent the poor children to 'er room with the gal, she took that poor woman as was the mother out of the room, and I set a-watchin' that dear sufferer, as lay for a good bit with 'er eyes shet, but 'er lips was movin' as I'm sure was prayers, and 'er mouth were that dry, that I took and wetted 'er lips with a little somethink just to moisten 'em. She opened 'er eyes and looks at me, says somethink as I couldn't make out at fust, but in a minnit I guessed it were

“mother,” and see I was right by the smile she give when I says, “Shall I call ’er?”

The poor woman come in, and knelt down by ’er bed, a-sayin’, “My darlin’, wot can I do for you?” She bore up wonderful, and put ’er ear down to the poor dear’s mouth, and then bust out a-cryin’. I see that dear gal smile, and try to take ’er mother’s ’and to kiss it, and then she give sich a sweet look, and with a sigh she were gone to where angels was a-waitin’ to take ’er. For ever since she set ’erself a fire they said as ’er lips kep’ a-movin’, as was constant prayers, poor dear, and the minister he come in jest at that werry moment before she died, as said she were a good gal as ever stepped, and kep’ reglar to ’er chapel, and he prayed for ’er, and told ’er mother as she didn’t ought to say it were a judgment on ’er for lettin’ the gal go to the theayter, cos it ’adn’t done ’er no ’arm, and the money as she ’ad been a-earnin’ nearly kep’ the family, tho’ there was brutes of fieldmales as come round the werry nest day with tracks, as was a-makin’ of their remarks to all the naybours, and said to my Aunt Mason, as it were a judgment on sin, as give it two on ’em pretty sharp, and says to ’em,

“Well, all as I can say is, ladies, if ever you should ’appen to be a-burnin’, I only ’opes as you may pray for ’elp as that poor gal did; tho’, in my opinion, you’re that sort as will be past pray-

in' for, cos you considers yourselves reglar top sawyers."

Them words sent them off with a flea in their ear, as the sayin' is, tho' they give loud groans. So it's no use a-talkin' about gas, or wax, or parafeen, nor yet kerosene, nor naphtha, nor yet train oil, cos fire is fire, all the world over, from a bundle of wood to gunpowder, as will burn, for even a coal a-poppin' out of the grate can set fire to a 'ouse, so all as we can do is to be that careful, cos, as we all knows, fire's a good servant, but a bad master, as the sayin' is. And more than that, we all knows as accidents will happen for all our care as we may take, but then if we've done our best to keep a good look out, we aint got nothink to blame ourselves for.

I certainly do like a-goin' to Madam Tussor's, partikler for young people, as is that instructin' as they may learn nat'ral 'istory without no trouble while they're a-takin' of their pleasure, and learn all about everybody as ever did live, from William Cobbit a-movin' of 'is 'ead about, up to William the Conqueror, as would soon 'ave moved it about for 'im, if he'd 'ave set in his way, a-talkin' as free as he did used to in Parlymint, tho' Brown always says as he 'ad is common senses about 'im, and 'rote wonderful books; and certainly he were down on Queen Lizzy bethand'er father as were Old Arry, that's pretty certain, if ever he had a dorter in this world.

But, law, they all tells a tale as they stands there at Madam Tussor's—a many on 'em in their werry own clothes, as makes you think where they all are now, and wot a many on 'em would give if they could jest step 'ome again, only for a minnit, to say one word, or ask to be forgiven, or alter somethink in their wicked wills. Ah! it's a deal too orful to think much about; but yet we didn't ought to drive away them thoughts as may warn us to do our dooty now, well knowin' as we can't do it arterwards, even tho' we may be the finest among the dead at Madam Tussor's, as is a warnin' to them as is livin' But, law, what a place it 'ave growed, as I remember it in Gray's Inn Road, and went to see it the werry night as 'Ouses of Parlymint was burnt down, as we see the flames on in goin' ome. But I don't see wherever it is to move to next, except it's the Cristshul Pallis, as would show beautiful in them galleries; not but wot Baker Street is more easy to be got at with buses a-passin' the door constant, and not a stone's throw, as the sayin' is, from that undergrounded railway, tho' I'm sure that Baker Street station is enuf to strangle you with smoke and the smell of sulphur, as seems like bein' down in the internal regions, as the sayin' is.

But I'm sure 'ow people are to get about next I can't think, for it's a reglar fight now-a-days to

get into a bus at the Regency Circus of a afternoon, as I was dragged along myself ever so far, with one leg up on the step and 'oppin' with the other, as wasn't allowed to stop this side the lamp-post, as nearly put my knee out, and parties that rude a-pushin' you out of the way—leastways would do so if you'd let 'em, and gettin' in before you. As I says to a old gent as tried to push me away to get in 'isself, I says, "Do you think as you're the only party as is in a 'urry to get 'ome to your tea." So he didn't say nothink, but give me a shove for'ard.

I waited till he come up behind me on that step, a-follerin' up that close to get in at the bus door. I let 'im get on the top step, and then took and backed wiolent with a jerk, and back he went, but ketched me by the tail of my jacket, as he tore the gimp off in fallin' back'ards into the mud, and two parties 'opped into the bus afore 'im, and so we 'adn't the pleasure of 'is muddy company; but the trimmin' of my jacket was a-hangin' in rags, so 'ad to 'ave it put on new, as turned out all werry well in the end, for the party as did it put it on wider, as made the jacket look like new agin, partikler arter bein' cleaned up and a new collar, or leastways the old one turned, as was Mrs. Padwick's advice, as knows 'er way about.

Both 'er and me is a-goin' to 'ave everythink



done up for this 'ere Exhibition at Paris, as Brown is mad over, thro' goin' to be that show of machinery, as is 'is delight, tho' I always begs and prays as he won't go near no cog wheels, nor yet double flies, as can tear out your limbs by the roots in a jiffey, like the party out at Bolton way, as 'ad 'is arm ketched in a wheel, and would 'ave 'ad 'is 'ole body drored in but for 'is mate, as 'ad the presence of mind for to ketch up a 'atchet as quick as thought, and chop 'is arm off above the elber, as was lucky it were 'is left only, and could work as well with 'is feet; and that's why I don't like Brown a-goin' over to Paris alone, cos tho' in course I can't be always with 'im, and shouldn't wish to be a-follerin' of 'im about, yet feels more 'appy in my mind when the oshun wave ain't a-rollin' atween us, thro' a-considerin' it my dooty to know the wust as soon as possible, not as I'm one to grizzle and go on over wot might 'appen, tho' I likes to make up my mind to wot may, and then I don't worret nor yet fret no more, but makes the best of things, as is the only way to get thro' this life, as is full of changes and chances, wherever you may be, at 'ome or abroad.

## MRS. BROWN

### AT THE PARIS EXHIBITION.



I SAYS to Brown, "In course, it ain't no great trouble for to get over to Paris, and not like my own grandmother, as was over six weeks a-doin' of it, as travelled with an ambassador, as 'is good lady didn't never ought to 'ave went, and were brought to bed of twins two 'ours out of Boolone, at a little bit of a inn ; not but wot she got thro' it all right, and were fit to travel in three weeks, and so follered 'er' usban on in a po-shay, a-leavin' them infants on the road along with my own gran'mother and a wet-nurse as were a native ; as one, as was a boy, lived to be a lord ; and the gal, she married blood royal, as were a Germin princes, as I've knowed two on 'em myself as were princes all over, with manners as no alderman couldn't 'ave better, tho' finer carridges, and the silk stockin's as the footmen 'ad on twelve-and-sixpence a pair, tho' the

alderman did get 'em trade price thro' bein' in the fancy line 'isself; and as to the gold lace on their coats, you couldn't 'ardly see the colour of the cloth for it, with white kasymere unmentionables and gold garters, with pumps to match, as there was a pair on 'em up behind 'is carridge, a-goin' to the drcrin-room. As they do say were the fust upset, as that there Duchess of Edinburrer ever got, thro' seein' such a splendid turnout, as took the shine out of 'er carridge; besides a alderman's lady a-darin' to drive up Regint Street afore 'er, as she wouldn't 'ave dared to in Roosher, as isn't manners; not as that alderman's good lady, nor yet the coachman, could see back'ards who were a-comin' arter 'em, thro' not 'avin' eyes behind 'em, as is a oversight in natur' not 'avin' purwided, as in course would be a safeguard agin bein' run into, even if it were the pole of a bus."

But, as I was a-sayin', it's as easy as kiss my 'and a-goin' to Paris now-a-days, as is under twelve 'ours, and in gen'ral ten, and will not be more than six when that tunnel is done, as will run under the sea; tho', for my part, give me a bridge like one as they're a-goin' to make over the Tems, close agin the Tower, as Brown says he's been a-readin' about, as will be made of steel, and the largest span as were ever knowed.

"Well," I says, "I must say as I likes a bridge

as is all open and above-board afore one of them choky-poky tunnels, as will be like that undergrounded railways, as gets all down your throat, as pretty nigh affixerated me, as the doctor says, a-gettin' out at Baker Street, and staggered on the pavement, and must 'ave pitched into the road but for the shoeblack boy and the lamp-post, as ketched me in their arms, as I clung to, quite black in the face, as made the perlice think were licker, till I got my breath agin, as showed no signs of drink, nor yet carraways nor peppermint about me, tho' thankful for to get a glass of ale along with a seedy bisket, jest to clear my throat. So I do 'ope as it will be a bridge as could be broke down easy if the French was to come a-marchin' across for to invade us like Julia Seizer, cos in course we should let all the harmy get on to the bridge, and then cut it thro' at this end, as would settle the French army wuss than Waterloo, as is where my own gran'father left a leg as saved 'is life, the same as Lord Anglisee, so always considered themselves comrades in arms, as the sayin' is."

Brown, he didn't want me to go altogether for fear as I might knock up, besides a feelin' of it dull thro' not 'avin' of them friends a-livin' over there, as there was in Lewy Napoleon's time. Not as ever Lewy Napoleon were ever no friend of mine, as I always thinks as Sedan were a good riddance

of bad rubbish, as the sayin' is; not but wot I 'oners Queen Wictorier for noticin' of 'is widdier and the young man, tho' Brown will go on so about 'er bein' called Hempres, and 'im Prince Imperial, when the French has been and done away with the lot, umpire and all.

Not but wot there did ought to be a king and queen, or something like that cos it sounds mean, only 'avin' a president, as is nobody.

Brown, though he's some Merrykin ways, always pitches into that there President Grant a-goin' about everywhere, jest as if he'd been a crowned 'ead, as ain't nobody now, and never was any great shakes.

But, law! it's all rubbish wot you calls 'em; every one as 'ave got power likes to show it, from the beadle as bullies the charity boys in church down to that old Beastmark, as is a reglar born tyrant, and 'ave been and worked 'is way up from bein' nobody; and as to Gover'ments, they only means the tax-gatherer, wotever you calls 'em, as will take your bed from under you jest the same, whether it's the Hemperor of Roosher or President Grant.

I do 'ope as no war won't break out, as would make a nice mess of this 'ere Exhibition, as is miles covered in with glass, as the Germains would make a nice hole in if they was to come with their needle-

guns a-pintin' at it. Not as they'd be so bad as them Commune women with their petroleum, as they do say a good many on 'em is a-lurkin' about 'ere up Le'ster Square way, as always were their 'idin'-places; and if I 'ad my way I'd give 'em a good 'idin', and send 'em packin' back to France, the willins, as 'angin' is too good for 'em.

Miss Pilkinton she's full of goin' over to Paris, and Mrs. Padwick 'ave promised to make one, as in course it's a dooty to incourage them French, as is that industrious, and can work our own people out of the field; cos no doubt in a gen'ral way the French works a deal 'arder and lives a deal cheaper than we do, cos they'll live on a loaf of bread and the smell of a match, as the sayin' is; besides, they works early and late, and many on 'em seven days a week, thro' not a-payin' no attention to Sundays; leastways them French as larfs at religion, and takes a pleasure in murderin' priests, as is the way with Socialists all over the place, as will 'ave to be put down with a 'igh 'and some day; and then there'll be parties a-callin' of them marters, the same as they speaks of them Communist wretches as was all shot down like rubbish as they was, up agin that Harch de Triumphs, as is at the top of Shants Elisees, as is wot the French calls a "coo detar." As is the only way for to keep order in Paris, and won't let 'em open their mouths.

Not but wot in my opinion it's a deal better to let 'em meet in 'Igh Park of a Sunday, tho' it's a shame the way as they treads down the flowers; and as to them ruffs a-darin' to pitch into the Duke of Ticks, why, they did ought to 'ave a taste of the lash, the cowardly willins, if it was only for the fright as they might 'ave give 'is good lady, as every one loves.

Not as I 'olds with Gladstin a-bein' pitched into by the crowd a-comin' from a place of woshup, cos it ain't nothink to nobody where he goes, and if he likes to 'ear Woysey one Sunday and Mr. Mac-knockmyknee the other, or Spurgin in the mornin' and that there Cannon Liddin of a evenin', he didn't ought to be interfered with. Whyever he shouldn't pal along with Bradlaw, I can't think, or go in for free love or any other wagaries as them Merrykins delights in, as shows liberty of conscience actin' in a free way, as in course it ain't no use 'avin' free thoughts if you don't 'ave free hactions, as is all liberty, as in course means do jest as you please, and if others don't like it let 'em put it down if they can, and if they can't, why, they must put up with it, cos in course it's only fair as the weakest should go to the wall, as is the way of the world.

The mornin' as we started for Paris was a-goin' off with flyin' colours, as the sayin' is, tho' the cab

as we got were a tight fit for me and Brown, cos the others 'ad went overnight by the Brighton line, as is all werry well, but I wanted to go by Dover, cos that's the way as my grandmother went afore steam were inwented; besides, I never will forgive 'em for a-keepin' us all that time outside Dieppe, as let the steam off and ruined my new bonnet, as the sun and the sea took every bit of colour out of my green ribbins, let alone that steam a-spottin' my mantle all over like soapsuds.

I were glad to see Dover agin, that I were, thro' Brown 'avin' read to me all about Julia Seizer a-landin' there for to conker us, as were afore the Castle were built. Cos if the Rooshins was to come now and march thro' France, they'd never land safe at Dover, cos we should blow the 'ole Channel up with torpedoes, as goes off as well by sea as by land, and only shows what a thing steam is, whether it's peace or war, as we did ought to be thankful for steamboats, as I'm sure I am, as can jest remember the Margit 'oys, as was out for days sometimes; and as to Dover and Callis, eight 'ours was short work.

I'm sure as the next thing as we shall come to is flyin', as is werry nigh done now, for to leave Wictorier a little afore eight in the mornin' and be over in Paris jest on six, tho' certingly that crossin' from Dover to Cally, as the French calls it, tho' it's



name is Callis, is orful rough at times, not as I suffered nothink, escept them beastly basins all over the place, as gives you a turn, the werry sight on 'em.

It's werry different a-landin' nowadays at Callis to wot it did used to be when Alderman Wittles, as were over nineteen stun, went over, thro' 'avin' 'ad to be carried ashore from the packet on a fish-woman's shoulders, as let 'im fall, thro' the tide bein' out, as pretty nigh drowned 'im, as he always said were done a purpose, cos he didn't promise 'er 'is wait in gold to take 'im safe to land.

Nowadays, the train is drored up close agin where you lands, and in we got; leastways, I got into one carridge, and Brown, thro' a-wantin' to smoke, got into another.

He says, "You'll be all right here, and if anythink goes rong you can stop the train thro' this little bit of glass."

There was two parties, both French, besides me in the carridge, as got in when we was jest a-startin' out of Callis. They seemed all friendly enuf as we was goin' along, till they got talkin', and then I see one on 'em take out a pistol, as were a revolver, and pint it out of the winder and all about.

So I thinks to myself as it was lucky as there

was a little bit of glass for anyone to give an alarm thro', in case of danger or bein' shet up with a madman, or a kernel as 'ad been a-drinkin'

I didn't take no notice of them two, as kep' on a-jabberin', as I think was pollytics, for I see one on 'em pull out a paper, but in course that wasn't nothink to me.

I felt a little bit shaky arter the sea, and thro' 'avin' of my little flat bottle 'andy, took jest a thimblefull when we was landed, and then jest another a little further on, as made me feel that comfortable, as I began a-droppin' off, tho' them two Frenchmen kep' on a-talkin'.

At last I 'eard one on 'em give a shout, as made me jump out of my skin; and the fust thing I see was one Frenchman with 'is body 'arf out of the winder, and the other a-'oldin' 'im back.

Up I jumps, and in 'arf a thought I'd been and broke that bit of glass as is jest above the 'ead and gives the alarm with my umbreller 'andle, and give a pull at the ring as 'angs inside.

Them two rushes at me when they see wot I were a-goin' to do, and tried to stop me.

I 'ollers "Murder!" and jest then the train stops, and up come the guard to the winder.

I says, "Guard, I'll get out."

When if one of them chaps, as proved English, didn't say as I ought to be ashamed of myself,

a-stoppin' the train for nothink, as I'd been a-makin' too free with the O-de-wee.

That guard, he took and 'owled at me, a-sacrein' orful, and on went the train ; and that Inglishman said as the moment they got to Armyens I should be took out of the train and locked up for the night.

I says, "I've got a 'usban' in the train, as will purtect me ;" tho' I 'ad my misgivins as Brown might give it agin me.

When we did stop, that Inglishman turned out a trump, for he says to the shif-de-gar, as they calls 'im, as I'd been a-dozin' and woke up in a fright, as was true, for I thought they was both a-goin' to make away with theirselves out of the winder.

The Inglishman, he told me when we'd started agin, as it was all a mistake me a-thinkin' as they was suicides, as all come about thro' 'is friend, as was French, a-seein' of 'is own brother a-standin' on the platform as we passed thro' a station, and jest gave a 'oller at 'im, and was a-wavin' of 'is 'at thro' the winder.

So he squared it with the guard, only some parties in the next carridge kicked up a shine, a-sayin' as I'd been and throwed a lady into sterriks, as I'm sure weren't no lady, a painted up 'ussey, with 'er 'air done yaller, as is quite enuf for me.

I certingly was thankful not to 'ave no row jest a-goin' into Paris, cos this 'ere Marshal is werry strick, tho' some say as he's only jest a-keepin' the place warm for young Bonyparty; as if I was 'im, I should say thankee for nothink, cos as sure as eggs is eggs, if that young man were to go back, there'd be wuss rows than ever.

I can't say as I was partikler pleased the way as they upset my box, as was the Custom 'Ouse, and all thro' me not a-rememberin' as clay meant key, and thought it was somethink as they thought I were a-smugglin'

So I says, "Bless the man, I ain't got no clay," and kep' a-shakin' my 'ead, a-sayin', "Nong!" till Brown come back, and says,

"This all comes of your a-blowin' about your French, and 'ere you are floored over a key."

I says, "It's all the fault of these 'ere French, as don't pernounce it proper, as I once 'eard a old gent say as they didn't."

Says Brown, "Well, the French did ought to know best about that."

But, lor, them French is wonderful people, as ain't a bit changed since I were there afore, as seemed like yesterday, tho' over eleven year, and Mrs. Pelto a-livin' jest the same, with old Pelto in a wig, as looks like a old bird's nest on the top of 'is 'ead, and both 'is ears that full of wool for fear of

cold, as you can't make 'im 'ear not if you 'ollers till you're blind.

Not as they're a-livin' where they did, thro' things bein' that dear inside the barrier, as they calls the hocror, as comes and looks into the werry buses to see as you ain't a-smugglin' in wine, nor meat, nor vegetables; as I says to the young man as wanted to look into my redicule the first mornin' as we was a-goin' into Paris, arter arrivin' over night; so I says, "Nong, Moossu, certingmong nong, as ain't no smuggler."

As made 'im shrug up his shoulders agin, no doubt took aback at me a-speakin' up like that, as I says to the lady as were a-settin' oppersite, as 'ad a mustache like a man, as some considers a beauty, the same as your heyebrows a-meetin' over your nose, as smiled werry perlite.

So I says, "Siver play my dam porquor avez lui regardé ma sac." She began a-jabberin' like mad, so, as I didn't want to encourage 'er, I says, "Tray biang, smutty gal, whether he looks in it or not."

Then she says, "Mais mong jeu wee."

So I says, "Certy mong," and there I let it drop, cos I see she were a reglar jabberer, a-tryin' to get me on a reglar string.

So when she kep' on a-talkin', I only says, "Anglay," as made 'er smile, cos I see as she'd been a-takin' me for a French woman.

But Mrs. Pelto she were pleased to see me, as would kiss me both sides of my face, as wasn't no treat, cos she'd been a-dinin' on garlic, and 'ave took to snuff.

I was thankful as Old Pelto didn't want to kiss me too, cos he only shaves once a week, and never washes, and 'is face is a reglar mask of filth.

So I shook both 'is 'ands, a-sayin' as Brown were a-comin' up; cos I knowed he'd be afraid of makin' Brown jealous thro' bein' too free with me, cos he knows as Englishmen is that jealous, as tigers ain't nothink to 'em when put up; not as Brown is jealous, or ever was, and always tells Pelto not to mind 'im when he's a-chaffin' me about bein' 'is second, not as I'm one to incourage no free ways, not even in fun, cos French is too fond of takin' French leaf, as they calls it, as I never did 'old with and never shall.

Pelto he lived servant in England, as is 'ow he came to marry Mary Bryan, as is now Mrs. Pelto, and a old friend of mine, but tho' Pelto picked up a wife he never didn't learn no Inglish, tho' he thinks he did, and a nice 'ash he makes on it; not but wot he gets on werry well with me a-'elpin' 'im with my French, as together makes a nice toot-on-somble, as the French says.

I must say as I was struck in 'eaps the fust time as I see that there buildin' for the Exhibition, as is

close agin where the buses stops, as runs all thro' Paris up to the Trokydeero, and only threepence all the way, if you'll take the correspondence, as is werry tiresome a-waitin' so long for your turn, partikler if not sharp at ketchin' the numbers, for I'm sure one time I 'ad to wait 'ours thro' 'avin' of number sixty-nine as I thought were ninety-six, and then the French is so ridiculus in callin' their numbers, as don't do it reglar the same as us, but calls ninety-six catterawangsays, as means haty sixteen, so 'owever is any one to understand wot they're a-talkin' about. I'm sure another time I waited in that bus office a-correspondainin' to Trockydeero was 'ours, thro' not a-'earin' the number called, as turned out seventy-seven, as they calls for santedeessett, so in course I didn't ketch it, let alone that Frenchman a-speakin' that quick, as is a bad 'abit as they've all got, thro' never a-thinkin' afore they speaks, as is arf their troubles; cos they will go on a parlywooin', and parties can't understand arf wot they says, and then they flies in a rage, and takes and tears everythink up, and sets fire to the place, the same as Mrs. Burbidge's 'usban, as would come 'ome all smilin', tho' a leetle bit on, and 'ave 'is tea like a lamb, with the babby on 'is knee, and then preaps a word, or even one of the children would get 'is shirt out, as the sayin' is, and he'd take and break everythink on

the table, and 'ave been knowed to run arter 'is wife into the street with a dinner-knife, and one time set the place in a blaze thro' a-throwin' a pint of wenus turps on the fire as he took for water, cos the sut come down the chimbly to put it out, and 'ad two injins a-rushin' like wild beasts down the street in no time, as reglar broke up the 'ome, cos the landlord wouldn't let them stop thro' bein' a noosance to the naybours, as is wot I'm always afraid on with the French, as will kick up some row as will bring down them Germins on 'em agin, and bust 'em up altogether, as is wot that umpire ended in, and will agin.

I do 'ope as the Rooshins won't never get 'old of France, cos they'd be a deal too near to us, and we should soon 'ave a row; tho' I'm sure we was werry civil over that there Duchess of Edinburrer when she come, as some say ain't got all the money as was expected, but I'm sure we ain't a-goin' to 'ave no words over the money, as is reglar low-lived, and wot Queen Wictorier wouldn't never stoop to, tho' in course, if parties wants to pick a quarrel, they'll soon find a reason, and then we should 'ave a war, as is in my opinion jest wot that rascally old Beastmarck would take and glory in; a old willin.

Not as I blames 'im so much as I do them Germins, as lets 'im bully 'em, tho' in course he've



been and squared some on 'em, includin' that pious old Hempror, or they wouldn't never let 'im come the bounce, like as he does, all over the place.

But as to French omnibuses, they're that inconvenient thro' bein' nearly all divided in compartments, as is that narrer, as no full-sized figger can't set in comfortable; and if there's a thing as I do 'ate, it's that passin' of the fares down, as made me lose two fourpenny bits and a sixpence.

A ridin' one time from the Regency Circus to the Cher-rin' Cross station, as is tuppence, a party give me a shillin' to pass to the conductor, as give me the change, as I could swear, as I put it in that party's 'and, as let it slip thro' 'er fingers—least-ways said she 'ad—and then would 'ave it as I dropped it, and kicked up sich a row that I 'ad to give it 'er out of my own pocket, as wasn't no lady by 'er langwidge, let alone rum on the breath enuf to knock you down, as in my opinion she kep' a-suckin' it out of 'er bottle as she got done up in the corner of 'er shawl, as she declared was medsin as she'd jest got from the Ortherpedic 'Orspital for 'er broken elber, so I can't say a word agin French busses, tho' I'm sure when I did get that bus for Trockydeero, I was settin' for ull the world like on rails, thro' them seats 'avin' arms to 'em, that narrer. They may well call it Trocky dear Oh! as they will find out to their cost, as the sayin' is,

afore they've done with it, as in my opinion is arf braggerdoshier and bounce; and as to fillin' of it, why, they'd 'ave to empty out all the other shops as is in the world, let alone picters, and other wallyables, got together from all over the place.

But as I were a-sayin' to Brown, wot if one of their riverlutions was to bust out, with them Communists pitchin' their petroleum works all about the place, where would all that property be? As for my part, I wouldn't even bring my best things over to Paris, for fear as I might be glad to cut and run in a cabbage-cart, like that Madam Lewy Napoleon, poor thing, without even a change of linen, nor a comb and brush, as it's lucky as she'd been and sent away all their money and wallyables aforehand, sich as dimon necklasses, afore the row broke out, or they wouldn't 'ave 'ad a rag to their backs now at Chislehurst.

It certainly did give me a turn when I see all them Toolerees burnt to the ground, as I remembers well, a noble pallis, as you seems to miss, partikler with this 'ere exhibition a-comin' on, without no one for to be at the 'ead on it, as is why they've dawdled so over the work, and will make the French feel mean when they aint got no King nor Queen for to do the 'oners, cos in course, when the Prince of Wales comes he'll nat'rally turn up 'is nose at 'avin' nobody but a Marshal for to 'sociate

along with, and in course the Princess she won't come for to 'ave nobody to receive 'er but that Marshal's good lady, as is only a sojer's wife as may have rode in the tail of a baggage-waggin 'afore now, cos in course 'er 'usban was only rose from the ranks, as the sayin' is, as is a good lift for 'er, but not like a real royal family as is wot the French wants, as you can see all about that Exhibition.

Cos in course, even when Lewy Napoleon were called Hemperor, parties used to like for to see all the show, and would stand about and wait to stare for 'im by the 'our together; but now nobody don't care to look arter this 'ere Marshal, as is jest like any other common sojer as you might meet on in a day's march; tho' a good sort, and fond of 'is bottle. I remember when I was 'ere afore, a-goin' to the theyater for to see that there Hemperor, as they called 'im, as was a grand sight, and nobody didn't think nothink of the play, for a starin' at 'im and 'er, and all them as was with 'em; cos tho' every one knowed as they was nobodies, yet it sounds well to be called a hemperor or a prince, and I must say as the way he 'ad got a royal box like for to receive 'im and 'is pals at that last Exhibition, was fitted up jest the same as if it 'ad been for a real queen.

But, law, there won't be nobody to look at no more than if it was the Lord Mare of London a-

goin' to lay the fust stone of Free Masons' Orfins, and that's why in my opinion this 'ere Exhibition will fall flat, tho' a noble buildin', and when finished Aladin's Lamp never could 'ave built a finer.

But talkin' of buildin's, there ain't nothink like this 'ere new operar 'ouse, as is a mask of gold, and only fit for kings and queens, and I'm sure when Mrs. Pelto took me in I thought as it were fairy land at the werry least, but then when I come to look round, and think as they wasn't none on 'em better than myself, and nothink to look up to, like, tho' I was nearly at top of the 'ouse.

They may well call it a grand opera, as were too noisy for me, as were called the Ugynose, as Mrs. Pelto's son said were all about religion.

"Ah!" I says, "religion aint proper in a theyater, and give me them as don't make no show on it; not but wot I myself should 'ave set on a old feller as come into that theyater where there was a large party as was settin' enjoyin' theirselves over their cups, and begun a-singin' of a tune to 'em, as set 'em all a-singin' like mad; and as to the music, it were a deal louder than the singin', and altogetther I were that confused, I'd 'ave give all the world to 'ave been at 'ome agin; for, wot with the stairs, and the glare, and the 'eat, and the noise, I didn't know 'ardly wot I were about, and but for a orange, should 'ave died of thirst, and

would 'ave went 'ome, only I knowed as Mrs. Pelto would 'ave been 'urt, cos 'er dorter's 'usban 'ad got us in thro' 'avin' of a friend as were leader of wot they calls the clack, as I nat'rally thought meant the talkin'; so werry nigh put my foot in it that werry same night, at that operer, for when any one was a-singin', all of a sudden a lot of fellers broke out a-clappin' their 'ands like mad, and was a-makin' that row as made me quite jump agin.

So I says, "Whyever can't them fools be quiet, and not be a makin' that row, so as to put other parties out, as must be a low lot, for I see 'em all a-settin' down below in a row, a-clappin' their 'ands all by theirselves."

"Oh!" says Mrs. Pelto, "'ush! that's the clack, as my 'Ortense's 'usban is the leader on."

"Oh!" I says. "Really! Well, then, I wish as he'd 'old 'is clack."

"Oh!" she says, "they 'ave 'em in all the French theyaters."

"Oh!" I says, "indeed! Wot for?"

"Yes," she says, "and the French durstn't say as they likes anybody as sings or acts till the clack says they're good or bad."

"Oh! then," I says, "the French aint no judges of wot they likes."

She says, "I don't know about that; but one

thing I do know, as nobody can't sing nor act neither as the clack don't like."

"Well, then," I says, "anybody might pay the clack for to say they was fine singers."

"Oh, dear, no!" she says; "they're like all Frenchmen, that 'onerable as they wouldn't stoop to sich ways. You might as well try to bribe the noosepapers as the clack."

I didn't say nothink, but 'ad my own thoughts over that pint, as I kep' to myself. I couldn't make neither 'ead nor tale of that there Ugynose, as seemed all row; tho' I see as parties was 'avin' 'igh words, and one stout lady as were dreadful tight-laced, she came forard and reglar 'owled at them fiddlers, as one on 'em sat on a 'igh stool and shook a stick to try and keep 'em in order; but none on 'em didn't seem to mind 'im; and as to that stout-figgered fieldmale, she reglar defied 'im.

There was pretty dancin', but I was too 'igh up to see it, and then there were more fightin' and 'ollerin' and then a lady come on a 'orseback, and then at last sich a lot come on as would make such a row, with a Germin band a-playin' at the back, that they 'ad to drop the curting to quiet 'em. I didn't want to stop no more but Mrs. Pelto said as I must see the blessin' of the ponyards, as they was a-goin' to massacre the Protistants with.

So I says, "I don't 'old with massacrein'

nobody, as ain't Christshun charity; but as it's all make-believe, I don't mind a-stoppin'." And so I did, but law, it was only more noise and 'ollerin' as a lot on 'em made, and then two parties as was both stout, and the gentlemen were a 'Ebrer Jew I should say, dressed up fancy like, and the lady in white as tried who could 'oller loudest, till at last the poor lady as I knowed was overtight laced, give a yell as were too much for the fancy dress 'Ebrer's nerves, for he took and jumped slap out of winder, and she come a-croper on the flat of 'er back, as was a stay lace give way sudden, as is no doubt a great shock to any one; but in course better than a wessel, as it's a wonder she didn't bust a-'ollerin' out like that, laced that tight as must 'ave been a misery to 'erself, for it even give me quite a pain to look at 'er alone.

I don't 'old with them oprers, specially them religious ones, as I were a-sayin' might put into them Communists' 'eads fer to massacre the English thro' bein' Protestints, when they comes to see this 'ere Exhibition, as would take in a lot of them Merrykins too, as is a good many of 'em Dissenters, as in course 'olds their 'eads a deal 'igher now, as Gladstin 'ave been and gone over to 'em.

In course I didn't care to go to no French theayters, as must be wuss than the English ones, thro' not bein' able to make theirselves understood

tho' I've 'eard a many say as French plays is a deal better rote than English, and that's the reason why they turns 'em into English, cos the English ones is sich rubbish; leastways, that's wot Miss Pilkinton were a-sayin' over supper, as put Brown out, as will always stick up for Old England, with all its faults.

The French is a werry ignorant lot for all that, as I can prove, thro' goin' myself to talk to one of them 'ouse agents, for to speak about gettin' a 'ouse or apartments for a lady as I've knowed for years, as is Lady Wittles's own niece's step-dorter, as says to me, "Mrs. Brown, in goin' to Paris will you jest get a idea of 'ouses for us, as we shall be a-goin'; but wotever you do, pray be partikler about it's being 'ealthy."

"Oh!" I says, "in course that's arf the battle," partikler as she were delicate 'erself, and one child not strong.

So I goes to this 'ere agent the next day arter I got to Paris, a-knowin' well as if you puts a thing off it's never done.

Well, this 'ere agent 'ave got rote up in French, "I say, speak English," as the French "Heecey ong parlez honglay." So I goes in, and says, "Speak English?"

He says, "Oh yes!"

"Ah, then," I says, "I'm all right."



"Oh! yes," says he.

"Then," I says, "I wants to know about a 'ouse in a hairy part, genteely furnished, as must be five bed-rooms, with a salong and a sally-mangy."

"Ah! ah!" exclaims the man, "Madame speaks French. Ah! you are Parisiong."

I says, "Nong par tomby fay," tho' I know a little.

"Oh!" he says, "voos avey l'occong par fay."

I say, "Oh! dear no, but 'ow about the 'ouse?"

He begun a-jabberin' and a-parley-wooin' as I couldn't make nothing on, a-sayin', "sanky aim, seezy aim, and enter sol," as I knows means floors; but he reg'larly floored me, so I says, "tray biang, se woo un mayson de santay," as I knowed meant 'ealthy, thro' Miss Pilkinton a-lookin' out 'ealth for me.

He jumps, that Frenchman, and says, "Ah! ha! wenny wenny," and puts on 'is 'at and 'urries me into the street, and 'ails a cab, as drove us ever so far outside of Paris, to a dull lookin' place with a dead wall round it.

"Law bless me," I says, "this won't do, it looks like a mad'ouse."

"Ah! ha!" he says, "that is 'im—a mad-'ouse."

I says, "Nong; it won't never do, jammy."

It give me quite a turn, the sight on the place, as I've a 'orrer on, like my mother before me, as spotted a mad'ouse the moment she set eyes on the place, tho' it wern't known as such by the naybours, as were a doctor's out 'Ammersmith way, as mother got the washin' for ; not as she cared for the job, and only took the body linen, as they did the 'eavy things at 'ome.

The moment mother see the place she knowed wot was up, tho' she didn't ask no questions.

Some'ow mother 'ad got mad'ouses on the brain, thro' 'avin' lost a good customer, as 'ad went away sudden' from 'er 'ouse in Clapham Rise, and nobody a-knowin' where she were gone to.

This lady 'ad been always a good customer of mother's, and a friendly sort, as would 'ave a chat, and tell mother what she were going to do, so that mother were surprised as she should 'ave went off like that ; besides, she'd 'eard of another party as 'ad once 'ad a customer 'ticed away from 'er 'ome, and locked up in a mad'ouse, and the parties as done it they give out as she'd been and gone abroad. So mother, she didn't believe as that lady were gone, tho' not mentionin' it, nor yet 'adn't sent word to 'ave 'er things 'ome in the middle of the week, as any one would a-leavin' 'afore Saturday, or Friday evenin'. Wot put mother up to foul play, was bein' told by a party as called from that lady to

say as she 'adn't no call to come for the dirty linen no more.

So she let time go by, did mother, when one day a party in the name of Bethel, as did used to wash for 'er, but 'ad give it up thro' movin' Earl's Court way, dropped in, and said, a-speakin' natural like, as she'd see that lady at a place where she worked at 'Ammersmith, which she said she had took for a mad'ouse, tho' none of the servants wasn't told so.

Mother she was always one to think, so she says, "Oh, indeed!" didn't say no more, but thought she'd jest give a callin at that lady's 'ouse at Clapham way, as she 'adn't been near for weeks, but 'ad see all shet up in passin' Accordin', the werry next day in goin' of 'er rounds for the linen, she did call in, and found it empty, all but a grim party, as said the lady were on the Continong still, and might be away for years.

"Oh, indeed!" says mother; "and I 'ope as she's well and 'appy with 'er 'usban." For she'd told mother she were goin' to be married.

"Who cares wot you 'opes?" says the grim party; "mind your own busyness;" and shets the door in mother's face, as only says to 'erself, "You're no lady," and goes off on 'er cart, still a-thinkin'

It was over six weeks as mother 'ad done that doctor's washin' and it struck 'er as singler that

there was always new things as was only marked with a bit of red markin' cotton in the corner, and no name nor nothink so as you could indemnify them by. Now, mother never was one to pry into family matters, or could 'ave told strange tales of some of 'er customers; but, no, she always said as a laundress were like a doctor in a family, so kep' 'er tongue within 'er teeth, as the sayin' is.

Well, that doctor's washin' come in werry reglar, and a good bit on it as was in genral fine things, and some on 'em beautiful. Well, it so 'appened as that one week's washin' was 'rong; one 'ankercher as were over, thro' bein' unmarked. So that werry evenin' mother takes and goes over to that doctor's for to fetch the linen 'erself, a-takin' of the 'ankercher with 'er; and who should let 'er in but Mrs. Bethel, as were at work. So mother tells the 'ousekeeper as she thought it must belong to some one there. Mother made sure it were 'er old customer's, thro' a scent as that lady always used; but in course she didn't say a word. The 'ousekeeper didn't say no more than they was a small family, but she'd inquire. She was that close in 'er way, as made mother feel sure there were a screw loose somewheres. In goin' out, she give Liza Bethel on the quiet the straight tip, as the sayin' is, not to pertend to know 'er; but she says to 'er, in goin' out, "Mind and ask in

the 'ouse if there's anythink missin' by any one ;" cos she'd told mother as there was ladies in the 'ouse as she wasn't never allowed to see, let alone speak to, as that 'ousekeeper and another fieldmale kep' their eye on constant.

So mother says to 'er, " Why, don't you 'elp with the rooms ? "

" Yes," she says, " sometimes, but never till them ladies is out of them, as is turned into the gardin, as 'ave a 'igh wall round, with the door locked as leads to the 'ouse ; and if we wants to speak about anythink, we ain't allowed to go into the room where that 'ousekeeper is a-settin' with them ladies, but taps at the door as she comes outside to speak to us."

" Well, then," says mother, " next time you goes to that door, say as Mrs. Rawlins wants to know if that 'ankercher were right. Speak out my name pretty loud, so as parties inside the room can 'ear you."

Now, it so 'appened as mother 'ad often looked at that gardin wall round that doctor's place, a-thinkin' it were werry 'igh ; that evenin' as they was a-drivin' alongside of it, mother 'ollers to the old man as drove the cart for the linen, as were as deaf as a post, as the sayin' is, and tells 'im to draw up close agin that wall. She takes and climbs up, and stood on the top of the baskets of siled

linen, and over the wall she looks ; as was a sort of a orchard like, and no one about. Mother says it give 'er a turn, for it were a dreary sort of a place ; and jest as mother were a-thinkin' as she wouldn't care to live in sich a deadly-lively 'ole, if she didn't see that poor lady as she did used to wash for at Clapham come along the walk, a-lookin' the werry picter of misery. Mother gave a short corf, as made 'er look up ; but she didn't seem not to know mother not at fust, till she called 'er by 'er name.

She were startled a bit ; but then she says to mother, " Oh ! Mrs. Rawlins, I'm kep' a prisoner 'ere agin my will. Pray go to a magistrate for me ; they say I'm mad, but it's only to get my property."

Mother 'adn't no time to answer, for a voice says, " Wot are you doin', lookin' over my wall ? " So she turns and sees a party a-standin' in the road, as was the doctor.

So mother says, " You'll escuse me, sir, but your laylocks is come out that lovely."

He says, " You dare pick 'em ! "

Mother says, " I ain't a pickin' of 'em, but only takin' of a sniff, as surely it ain't no harm a-smellin' on 'em."

He says, " I must see if you've been a-pickin' of 'em ;" and up he jumps on the sharps of the cart and looks over the wall, but didn't see the poor

lady, for 'earin' of 'is woice she 'ad took and lewanted, as the sayin' is.

So he give a look round, and says, "Don't you ever let me ketch you a-lookin' over my wall no more."

Mother says, "Certingly not, as didn't know as it was your wall, or shouldn't 'ave made that free," and off she drove, leastways the old man did, while she were a-thinkin' wot 'ad best be done; not feelin' quite certing as she could trust Liza Bethel; but thro' all the colour of a musling gown, a-flyin' in the fast water as mother put it into, as she made were sure belonged to that same lady, she went over as bold as brass the werry next day, and says to Liza, who come to the door, as she wanted to see that lady over 'er musling bein' spilte, a-givin' Liza the wink not to seem to know 'er, but a-whisperin', "You let me in." So Liza took and throwed open double doors into a 'all, and pintoed to a room as mother walked into straight, as was a large room, with several parties a-settin' in, and that old 'ouse-keeper with 'em, as 'ollered out—

"'Ow dare you come in 'ere?"

Says mother, "Oh! pray excuse me, mum, but I would come in, for I'm in sich dreadful trouble over a lady's dress as 'ave been ruined thro' bleachin' liquid, as is a thing I never allows in my washus, as a new 'and as is washin' for me 'ave used unbeknown,

as 'ave turned 'er away on the spot, and come to polergise, cos I'm sure as it must belong to a lady as is a old customer of mine."

"Go out of this room, or I'll 'ave you dragged out," says the old woman in a rage.

"That you won't," says mother, "not till I've spoke to the lady."

Mother 'ave often told me as she never could tell 'ow she ever 'ad the cheek to do it, but some'ow she did feel it were so orful to see a feller-creetur put upon like that; partikler as the poor lady 'ad come into the room a-runnin' up to 'er, and said—

"Save me, Mrs. Rawlins, from these orful people."

The old woman she began a-pullin' at the bell, as were answered by Liza Bethel.

Says the old fury, "Call in Edwards."

"He's out, mum," says Liza, as mute as a mouse.

"Tell cook to come, and 'elp you turn this vile creetur out, she's intosticated."

"No she ain't," says mother, and then a-turnin' to the lady, she says, "Don't be frightened, I won't leave you; come along with me."

Up come a forbidden-looking fieldmale, as the old un called Cornfeet, and says to mother—

"Come out, this instant."

Mother 'adn't done 'ard work best part of 'er



lite for nothink, and 'ad got a arm like a pump 'andle for strength, so she give that old woman a twist, as sent 'er a-flyin' on to a soffy, and pitched Cornfeet back'ard arf across the table.

Then she says to the lady, "You come on," as caught up a sort of garden 'at and cloak as were on a seat in the 'all, and out of the place she walked with mother, as 'ad turned the key on them two old cats, and told Liza Bethel with a wink, as she'd ring her neck off if she dared to stop 'er or say a word.

Mother 'ad come over in a fly in case as she got a chance of gettin' the poor lady away; so they jumps in and drove straight to the lady's lawyers, as was near Park Lane, as was took aback at seein' 'er, thro' a-thinkin' as she were abroad in forrin parts, as was all lies, as them relatives 'ad been a-tellin' about 'er, as was 'er own blood relations too, and 'ad shet 'er up for fear as she should marry, and so she did that lawyer's managin' clerk as she'd been sweet on afore she were kidnapped, as she made a rich man, and lived 'appy together, with four boys, tho' there was ten years difference of ages, as is the wrong way, as my dear mother did used to say, thro' 'im bein' the junierer, but a very good match it turned out, and nice little family, and no more mad than we are, and would have punished that doctor as kep' 'er a pris'ner, only 'is wife come to

the lawyers, and went down on 'er kneces to 'er; so he got off a willin, thro' promisin' as he'd give up 'is bad ways, and it's a mussy as such things can't be done now-a-days.

But my dear mother never would take nothink from that lady but a 'ansome shawl, and all the espenses as she'd been put to, cos she said as nobody shouldn't never say as she did 'er dooty for wot she could get by it; not as ever I could see it that way myself, cos, in my opinion, if you do do your duty, you did ought to be paid for it, and well paid too, cos there is some things as money won't never pay for. But mother always were that singler, as nobody couldn't never say as they missed anything as she was hed for; and as to work, bless you, parties would go on their knees to 'er to take their linen, as she stuck to till 'er dyin' day. Not as she were took in the middle of a 'eavy wash, but took to 'er bed only three days, jest amusin' of 'erself over a few fine things, as were a good age, poor dear, but yet feels a tear in my eye even now when I thinks of 'er bein' gone, as were a good wife and mother, and did 'er dooty as far as she knowed it, and would do a kind turn to any one, and always a escuse for any one as be'aved bad to 'er; and as to payin 'em back in their own coin, as the sayin' is, she wouldn't 'ave trod on a worm as 'ad turned on 'er. I'm proud to think on

'er, and only 'opes as I may be like 'er at the end, cos that's wot we must all come to. We did ought to think on it when in 'ealth and strength, as is only true 'appiness arter all. But, lor bless me, I'm sure I shouldn't 'ave took that 'ouse if it was ever so 'olesome, for it looked a miserable 'ole, and I wanted somethink cheerful.

I must say as I don't think as that party as let 'ouses showed 'is French perliteness, for he called me a old hambyseel in speakin' of me to Pelto, and swore as I told 'im I wanted a mad 'ouse, as is wot masong de santy means in French. So I says to Mrs. Pelto, "If French is sich foolishness as to call madness 'ealth, why, I can't 'elp it, tho' certingly them loonytics do live to be surprisin' ages, cos they ain't got no minds to wear out their bodies, tho' I'm sure I've knowed children 'arf idiots as was cut off in early bloom, as the sayin' is, so it ain't always intellex as kills you early."

I don't like Republics, as they calls 'em, not from Merryker upwards, as is all 'umbugs, and as to this 'ere French one, it's a reglar sham, for they've got a army and a navy and the perlice jest the same as any king; and as to equality, why, you see 'em all over the place a-salutin' the officers, and presentin' arms to the President jest as if he were a Umpire; and as to liberty, why, you dursn't call out in the streets, "Weeve l'Umperure," nor yet

“Weeve ler Rore,” I suppose cos they don’t like to be reminded as ain’t got neither; and as to fraternity, as means bein’ like brothers, they’re all on the key weeve, as the sayin’ is, to butcher every one as don’t agree with them, as is always a-’avin’ rows over bein’ Legitimists, or Orleenists, or Bony-partyists; and as I were a-sayin’ to old Pelto, “Why ever don’t you find out who is the real king, and ’ave ’im, as is goin’ on respectable like a fam’ly, and not bein’ ruled over by any tuppenny tinker as may turn up?”

Old Pelto he nearly went mad over me a-sayin’ that, as is for the Orleens a-comin’ back, cos he ’ad a place under Lewy Fillip, as they called that old man; but Pelto’s ’arf-brother he’s all for Bony-party, cos he did used to look arter somethink in the gardins of the Toolerees; and why they none on ’em cares for the real king is, they ain’t none on ’em got ’opes of gettin’ places under ’im, cos all them as ’ad ’em with ’is grandfather is dead and gone and forgotten; and I’m sure it would be a good thing to start with a fresh lot, not but wot they’d be jest the same as the lot as ’ave gone afore.

Pelto wants to ’ave a wotin’ as he calls a plebbyseet, to see who is to be king.

I says, “Oh! bother wotes, as is all ’umbugs, as I knows thro’ Brown ’avin’ a wote for the beadle,

as I were that worreted over, and a deal of good we got by it."

As give me a orful cold, a-bein' kep' talkin' by them parties as come round to ask it, as is now years ago, for Brown he's give up pollytics, as he says is all 'umbug, and Parlymint no better than a gossipin' shop, as ansers some people's purpus; but as to that wote bein' asked for, I'm sure the 'eat as I was in, and that grimed, as anyone might 'ave took me for a sweep's good lady the arternoon as they come round about it, thro' it bein' of a Friday, when I will 'ave 'em, as is all werry well with their rameners, as they calls 'em, tho' nothin' in my opinion like the boys, as could go into the corners, where it will lodge, as is dangerous and apt to ketch, and bring the ingins on to you in no time, as is a 'eavy sum to pay, especial when prepared to swear as you've been swep' within six weeks; and I was a-sayin' to Mrs. Challin, as is a 'ardworkin' woman, tho' not to be trusted with sperrits about, as I'd go and clean myself up a bit, for I says, "I never can fancy my meals, and take tea as I am. I couldn't, was it ever so."

I don't think as I'd 'ardly got my gown off afore I 'ears Mrs. Challin a-'ollerin', as is that deaf as posts is nothin' to it.

So thinkin' as she was a-wantin' to know 'ow much milk as she should take, thro' 'earin' it a-

comin' down the street, I puts my 'ead over the bannisters for to say, "Make it a pen'orth," when, figger as I was, there was two gentlemen a-standin' a-talkin' to Mrs. Challin, as kep' anserin' foolish, thro' not a-'earin'

So I says to myself, "Pr'aps it's the lawyers," as never will let us rest, thro' Brown's aunt, as was thought to 'ave died intestines, as was 'er liver, tho' the will was quite safe in her corner drawer, tho' wrapped in a old 'ankercher.

I says to myself, "I shan't 'urry for you," so give myself a good wash, and got my 'air on, with a clean cap and apron, and down I goes, fully expectin' to find 'em gone, when there they was a-settin' like lambs, as the sayin' is.

So I says, "Your pleasure, gentlemen?" for I see as they wasn't lawyer's clerks by their ways, as was elegant, for up they gets, and a-bowin', bendin' I may say.

"'As we the pleasure to address Mrs. Brown?" says they.

I says, "I am that party, at your service," for I knows 'ow to address them as is on a spear above, thro' 'avin' lived in families as was so situated.

So they says as the weather was fine, as I said it were, and they asks after Mr. Brown's 'ealth, "as," I says, "is not what I could wish, thro' a nasty cough, as he says is nothing, but jest sich a one as

my own grandfather carried to 'is grave with 'im, and always said it would be 'is end, as it turned out at eighty-six, and had troubled him nearly forty years, so I always says did ought to be took in time, as 'ore'ound tea, with alicumpane powder, a bit of horseradish, and sweetened with treacle, softens the chest, and will often bring it away."

"And 'ow is your 'ealth, Mrs. Brown, mum?" says the other, as was short, with red whiskers, thro' the other party bein' a fine man, with a expandin' chest, as would show a frill-front shirt well.

"Why," I says, "I can't say much, tho' I keeps up, but often with a achin' back, for stoopin' does try me a good deal, and I often feels if it wasn't for Brown as would miss me, I ain't much to live for."

And so I tells the gentleman, as smiled agreeable, and says, "Mrs. Brown, mum, you're in your prime."

I says, "Go along, I'm the grandmother of six."

Says they, "Never."

I says, "I am."

Then, says they, "You must 'ave married in your tins;" as I didn't know what they meant.

At last, the little chap with the red whiskers says, "Madam," he says, "we've called for to solicit Mr. Brown's wote for this gentleman," and he 'ands me a card, as I couldn't read without my glasses.

So I says, "Oh, indeed! Wotever wote does the gentlemen require? I 'ope as nothin' ain't 'appened to the beadle," as was the last as 'ad it as fine lookin' a man as you'd see in a day's walk a-standin' on them church steps, with 'is cock-hat and beaf-steak collar, as looked a-commandin' officer in 'is uniform, a-walkin' at the 'ead of them boys a-beatin' of the bounds, as the minister, tho' lusty, didn't look nothin' aside of 'im; and them full parties is often gone to-day and 'ere to-morrow, as the sayin' is, so it give me a turn when the gentlemen talked about Brown's wote.

"But," he says, a-smilin' benign, "no mum," he says, "it are not parochial, but," he says, "Parliamentary, thro' Mr. Brown 'avin' of property in the Tower Hamlicks."

So I says, "Oh, indeed," I says, "I hope they ain't been and drawed Brown for Parliament, as they did for to serve on a jury, as took him away from 'is 'ome and locked up three nights, all along of one fellow as wouldn't give in about a party being 'anged, as richly deserved it, and got it too; as I says, tho' I don't 'old with bloodshed in general, yet them as does such things did ought to get, as is sure to come home to them."

So the gentleman says, "Don't you wish for to see Church and State kep' up?"

"Well," I says, "I thinks there's some as



keeps up too much state, for," I says, "there's Mrs. Graylin's, as keeps the ile shop at the corner, to see her go to church of a Sunday mornin', you'd think she was the Queen—and a vulgar squat figger for a green satin gownd and a pink bonnet, with a nose like a beetroot ; and as to him, he's downright ridiculous, a head and shoulders shorter nor her, a punchy figger, as a blue coat and metal buttons don't set off, and as plain a family as ever you see, and the eldest daughter married quite miserable, tho' I knows what would make them drop their heads a little. And suppose he is churchwarden, what o' that? there can't be no occasion for them stately ways."

So I says, "None of your Church and State for me."

So the gentleman, he says, as he hadn't no wish for to dictate to Brown about givin' his vote, but that if we wanted all manner, as this was the party as would do what is right by your Queen and Constitution, as he was anxious to preserve.

I says, "Of course the Queen did ought to be looked after proper, as is a-gettin' on now, thro' bein' the grandmother of eighteen, tho' that's nothink, for I've six, as I said, myself. But," I says, "as to our constitutions, they're remarkable good, or we shouldn't look as we do, for when Brown is cleaned up a bit, you'd guess him ten

years younger than what he is. So," I says, "we don't want no one a-lookin' after our constitutions, a-pokin' their noses into families, as is what I calls interference, as I see in the paper."

"Then," says the gentleman, "we may reckon on Mr. Brown bein' Liberal?"

"Well," I says, "that depends;" I says, "it's as much as people can do now-a-days to pay their ways, let alone bein' liberal; for I'm sure the price as things is quite takes away your breath."

"So," says the gentleman, "we hope to relieve the burdens of the workin' man."

I says, "That's right, that is; but," I says, "in my opinion, the workin' man 'ad better look after hisself. It's all very fine to come a-talkin' about workin' people bein' looked after," I says, "you're precious careful of the workin' man, you are, you're afraid of his gettin' a drop of beer of a Sunday night, when I'm sure we come in famishin' from Chigwell, and it only just struck eleven as we turned the corner, thro' bein' a good drive; and there we was done out of our beer; and then we mustn't have a bit of dinner baked of Sunday, if it ain't fetched home afore half-past one the baker mustn't give it, as 'appened to poor Mrs. Giddin's, as starved and slaved to get that bit of meat all the week, as was kep' late at church thro' a bishop a-preachin' as she took all the children to hear, and

come home too late for to get her dinner out, thro' the baker bein' fined the week afore, as was left a-starvin' with seven on 'em, and the bit of meat with a puddin' under, reglar spilte by Monday mornin' when she got it, and to call that religion. Now," I says, "you leave the workin' man alone, and let him do as he likes, and if he does wrong there's the police as 'll make it all square. However would you like for a lot of workin' men to come and interfere with your goin's on, and talk about improvin' of you, as I'm sure needs it, with your divorce courts, as is a disgrace, as I've seen a-dinin' myself at Richmond a-Sundays, as I've know'd to be parties as was very different at home."

"So," says one of the gentlemen, "mum, you did ought to be in Parliament yourself."

I seed he was a-jeerin', as put me out, so I says, "If I was, I'd pretty soon set some on 'em to rights."

"Why," I says, "it's downright disgraceful for to talk about poor laws or anything, when there ain't no laws for the poor, not even for them wretched casuals, as is left a-huddlin' on the pavement bitter cold nights at the workhouse door, and praps it's as well they don't let 'em in, for the way as they're treated insides makes the pavements more preferable."

"So," says the gentleman, "we're a-goin' to improve all that."

I says, "And high time too; but," I says, "what are you a-goin' to get by it?"

"Oh!" he says, "nothink; it's only for the good of the country as we does it."

"Well, then," I says, "in my opinion if you was to mind your own business, and let the country take care of itself, you'd show your sense."

"But," says he, "the country couldn't get on without Parliament."

I say, "Rubbish; a great deal Parliament does. Why, when quite a gal, I once lived in a family as was members of Parliament myself. So you can't tell me nothin' about them. Us servants often used to look for master's name in the papers, but never could find out as he was any good; whatever he went in there for I can't think. All as he could do was to give you a frank for a letter, as I've had one myself, and often saved me postage when letters was letters, afore the penny stamps come in, as made 'em that common as a letter don't seem nothin' now-a-days."

"Then," says the gentleman, quite polite, "we may expect your support to get us Mr. Brown's interest?"

I says, "Mr. Brown ain't one to go in for interest as brings parties to ruin pretty quick, thro'

a-mountin' up in no time, as Mrs. Pollin' showed me the tallyman's book herself, as you never would have believed what that five pounds cost her, as she borrowed, afore she was done. As I says to her, when she was talkin' of a-borrowin' of it to furnish three rooms, as she wanted to let, as never brought her back the money, and seemed always behindhand."

I says, "The loans is best left alone, accordin' to my thinkin', tho' it's what a lone woman is often drove to, tho' a-makin' of the money thro' a-puttin' things away is downright distraction, for I'm sure, to see Mr. Coley, the pawnbroker, goin' out of a Sunday in his pheaton, you'd say as it was nobility, that you would, and the feathers a-streamin' from her bonnet quite elegant, as was only a butcher's daughter in the Mile End Road, as was meat I never could fancy, thro' bein' in my opinion nothin' more than kag-mag, as the sayin' is, and that's all done out of interest."

So the gentleman he says, as "Interest will do anything in this world."

"Well, then," I says, "you don't get none out of Brown as long as I'm here, for tho' a man with a head, he's that easy to come over as no one wouldn't believe, for them as takes him the right way, for our 'Liza she'd get anything out of him, not as she was a artful gal, not by no means, but somehow 'ad a way with her as some has. But,"

I says, "what I'd stand by and see with my own flesh and blood, I'm not a-goin' to see strangers a-tamperin' with."

So the little chap with red whiskers gives the other a nudge, and then they both laughs, tho' a-tryin' to keep it under, as I'd ketched 'em at it afore.

So I says, "Reditule is all very fine, but jeers ain't no argyments, and I dessay as you're mighty fine in your parliaments ; but," I says, "don't come here a-talkin' and a-sniggerin' and a-grinnin' at me," I says, "a-takin' up my time," as was down-right a-starvin' for my tea, tho' no occasion to wait, thro' it bein' Brown's club night, as they meets annular for to settle up.

"So," says the fine man, Johnson, "we must be a-goin', but allow me," he says, "for to leave a card on Mr. Brown, and to hope as we may look to him."

I says, "Gentlemen," I says, "whatever is right, Brown is a man as he'll do ; not as he'll hold with what you've been a-sayin', as is in my opinion things as no one didn't ought to hold with."

"Excuse me," says the tall gentleman, "but really you have been a-talkin' that fast, Mrs. Brown, as we haven't had a chance of sayin' a word about our principles ; but," he says, "you'll tell

Mr. Brown as he'll hear from the candidate more fully."

"Well," I says, "I've heard quite enough, and as to me talkin', it's a thing as I'm not give to, for, as I often says, hear and see, and say nothink, is the best way thro' this world."

So they only gives a sort of grunt, and bows very low, a-wishin' of me a good evenin'; but, law bless you, they was masks of deceit, for Mrs. Pollin she met 'em just two doors off, a-laughin' like mad, and a-talkin' about some old woman as they'd had fun out of, and I daresay that's what they was up to, a-comin' here to try it on; but thro' me a-knowin' of myself, I don't give no one a chance of makin' fun out of me, tho' when I did tell Brown he went on that aggravatin', a-sayin', "Of course, I was the old woman they meant," whereas they 'ad told me as they wouldn't believe me a grandmother; but Brown's a-goin' to wote agin' 'em, as serves 'em right, if they was a-rediculin' of me to my very face, as Brown says is very plain, tho' I don't believe him.

That's why I 'ates republicins, as is all that double-faced lot, and would, in course, like to make theirselves kings, as is wot in course will be the end of France, leastways Paris, as don't seem 'arf a place, with only a Marshal at the 'ead on it.

I must say as it give me a turn a-seein' that Pallis at San Cloo all ruins, as is where Queen Wictorier stopped when she come to Paris, as couldn't stop there now, bless 'er royal 'art, cos there ain't a tile on the place, as it's a disgrace to see it all that knocked about, and nothink but for the sake of mischief, as the French seems for to take a delight in, like a parcel of children, and wants a good strong arm over 'em, leastways a army, as means the same thing in the end.

As to bein ready by the fust of May, they might as well 'ope to 'ave no more riverlutions. Why, the place is a reglar wilderness, as they're a-workin' like mad for to get the rooms ready for the Prince of Wales, as, in course, is the only real big man as they've got; as is the wust of them French, a-murderin' and drivin' away their kings and queens, and all the rest of the royal family, and now when they wants 'em, can't get 'em for love or money, so sneers at 'em, cos the grapes is sour, cos no real kings won't come, as is naturally afraid of losin' their 'eads; cos in course it's all werry well for to 'ave a pallis for the Umpire of Siam, as is where the twins comes from; but they ain't like a reglar crowned 'ead; and as to 'avin' six real Chiney fieldmales to make tea, I don't believe as it will be any better for that, cos I well remembers a shop as were called the Mandereen, and 'ad a gold idol in



the winder, and another idle 'eathen a-standin' at the door, and bought arf a pound of 'em myself, done up intin foil and 'igh glophics, as were the wust cup of tea as ever I did taste, as I should think must 'ave been the Chinees Umpire's tea-leaves after many waters, dried agin, and coloured up to look fresh; cos there's lots of tricks played over tea afore ever it comes here; and well I remember old Walker a-tellin' my mother as when he were 'prenticed to a grocer's down in Dunstable he 'ave often set with a birch broom between 'is knees, a-cuttin' of the ends off for to mix in with the tea, as he used to say give it a fine rough flavour, as some likes; though in course it ain't the Chinees as makes the tea good, cos any one can do that as puts plenty in, bein' sure as the water biles; not as I likes it to stand too long, as will get over-strong and bitter; and, for my part, I never will put the tea-pot on the 'ob, and don't 'old with a pinch of soder as is Miss Pilkinton's ways, as is a party I 'ave knowed for years, and thought as I'd see 'er in 'er real colours, as the sayin' is; but never in my life did I see sich a objec' as she come out in Paris.

I wouldn't go out with 'er, for she was a reglar larfin'-stock all over the place, with a green gownd that tight round 'er, as set to the figger as close as a pair of pants with only one leg to 'em.

She'd a mantle on as green as grass, and pink scarf round the throat, as 'ad been yaller and she 'ad dipped in rose-pink, with a 'at as wer all daisies and yaller ribbons with a feather.

She were all over the place, bless you ! talkin' of 'er parley woo right and left, as she's that proud on ; but I'd rather be tongue-tied myself than talk sich rubbish ; and always a-correctin' of others, and sayin' to me in a cuffy, " Dear Mrs. Brown, wot is it as you requires ? Tell me, I'll ask for it, so as you shouldn't be put to the pain of esposin' yourself in French."

I says, " Me espose myself ! Wotever are you a-talkin' about ? " So I says, " Gasson, une jimmy glass siver play avec une pettyware."

If she didn't bust out a-larfin', and says, " He'll bring you a lookin'-glass."

I says, " He ain't such a fool as that. I asked for a ice, and shall get a ice ;" and sure enuf he did bring me wot they calls 'arf a ice, as is as much as I can manage, thro' a 'ole one a-strikin' that cold to the constitution.

But I 'ad the larf agin 'er, for she says, " Gasson, appoutey moi une epouch ;" and if the man didn't bring a large sponge and wipe down the table, as 'ad coffee slopped all over it, and says to 'er, " Wot will you take to drink, mum, now as I clean the table ? " as were a Swiss, and 'ad lived

for years in London, as might 'ave been easy took for English.

But, bless you! Miss Pilkinton would come 'er French all over the place, and says to that waiter at partin', "Weeve l'Umperour," as made parties stare, thro' bein' English, as was a-settin' by me; and one on 'em says, "You'd better keep your flighty friend quiet, or she'll get into trouble."

So I says to 'er, "I say, don't be a-talkin' no pollytics in the public streets."

"Oh!" she says, "I'm a free-born Brittin."

"Yes," says that party as 'ad spoke to me, "and they'll send you back to where you was born, and give you a taste of a French prison on the way."

She says, "I should like to see 'em dare to, as would write to Queen Wictorier myself."

"Ah!" says the party to me, a-gettin' up and walkin' away, "You keep 'er off the absince, or there'll be a row."

All this 'appened to us as we was a-settin' a-restin' before a caffy close agin the Pally Royal, as it did used to be called, a-waitin' for a bus, and I didn't take no partikler notice of wot Miss Pilkinton 'ad been a-takin' till that man spoke, and then I see as she were a-drinkin' that stuff as looks the colour of sea-water, and smells like carraways, as I knowed they called absince.

Well, just then, the bus as we wanted come up, and our numbers was called, and in we got, and thankful I was to be booked 'ome.

They say as absince makes the 'art grow fonder, and certingly it made Miss Pilkinton quite tender like over Old Jones, as is Mrs. Padwick's brother-in-law, as 'ad berried 'is wife over two year, tho' still a-wearin' of a 'at band.

Miss Pilkinton she'd a eye on that man, as were partly 'er reason for comin' to Paris, but he didn't or wouldn't see it.

But, law, when we was in that bus, she did carry on a-leerin' and a-lookin', and a-sayin', "Oh! don't, Mr. Jones, look at me like that."

So Old Jones says, "Why, bless me, I was asleep."

"Oh!" she says, "you wicked man, you was winkin' "

I says, "Rubbish, parties as winks with a meanin' don't do it with both eyes."

"Oh!" says Old Jones, a-larfin, "I owns to forty winks."

"There," she says, "didn't I say so."

I says, "Anna Maria, don't make yourself absurd, don't."

She turned on me, and I thought were a-goin' to tear my eyes out, with 'er nose a-glowin' in the dusk like a red 'ot coal in the end of the bus.

Then she begun to sob frightful, a-sayin' as I'd took and turned agin 'er, and made such a row as made the conductor come up and say something about melarde.

So I say, "Wee, tray melarde," and if he didn't take 'old of Anna Maria Pilkinton, and was a-goin' to turn 'er out of the bus.

I says, "Nong, lacey sule."

Old Jones up and spoke in English that strong, as give that conductor a turn, and he went back to the door, and Miss Pilkinton she took and sunk 'er 'ead on Old Jones' shoulder, a-sayin', "Oh! my life preserver."

But Old Jones, he says, "Keep your 'ead off my shoulder, I don't want my new coat spilte with your nasty 'air grease," as made poor Anna Maria as give a deep sob and turn 'er 'ead on to me, as give 'er a shove up, not a-wantin' my jacket spilte.

We got 'ome to Mrs. Pelto's werry tired, and arter a cup of tea I was thinkin' as I should be glad to get to bed, for we'd 'ad a long day of it, a-seein' a-many things, which tho' I'd see afore, was that interesting, so I seemed like new all the same for that.

Not as I can a-bear some of them paintin's in that there Pally du Luxemburg, as is 'orrers, partikler that shipwreck with them parties on the rafters a perishin'.

Not but wot there's a wuss paintin', as I can't get the sight on out of my eyes, as they calls the last wictims of the terror, and well they may, for the sight on it is a disgrace to France, as let innercent people be led out to be butchered like that.

I'm sure one or two of them poor dears a-beggin' and prayin' for life brought the tears in my eyes, as I'm sure I shall dream on. So I were really glad for to go and see the Morg, jest to change the scene, partikler a-goin' after to see Noter Dam, as is a grand church. It made me bile all over to see that there prisin where that dear queen were shet up afore she were galanteened.

Miss Pilkinton she were dreadful disappointed in not a-seein' at the Morg that party as did ought to 'ave been there, thro' bein' found that cut up in 'er own apartment; but as there weren't 'ardly a 'ole bit in 'er body, they couldn't take 'er to the Morg, nor yet nowere else so as to be fit to be seen, as they do say were the hact of a willin as called 'isself 'er lover.

"Ah!" says Miss Pilkinton, "she's 'ad a trustin' 'art."

I says, "Rubbish, she must 'ave kep' werry low company."

Says Miss Pilkinton, "He were 'er lover."

I says, "More shame for 'er, 'avin' of a lover

at 'er time of life, an old fool," as put Miss Pilkinton in a rage.

Not as I thought about 'er bein' always on the look out for one, tho' jest the same age as that party, as they told us was over fifty.

Then we see the ruins of the 'Otel de Weel, as them Communeards 'ad been and burnt, and altogetther I were dead beat.

Well, when we got 'ome there was supper, in course, as I took advantage on for to make myself a good cup of tea, as I brought a good pound from 'ome with me, as were four shillin' mixed, as is wot I drinks.

Miss Pilkinton said as 'er 'ead were that bad as go to bed she must; but I persuaded 'er for to 'ave a cup of tea, as brought 'er round wonderful, thro' bein' true British article. Cos it's sing'ler, as with all their cookin' them French can't make a decent cup of tea, nor yet a drop of good beef-tea neither, thro' 'a-makin' too free with the water.

We should 'ave been all right over supper, only but for two cousins of Pelto's a-lookin' in along with 'is brother-in-law, as 'adn't 'ardly swallowed their suppers afore they was into them cussed pollytics 'ammer and tongs, as the sayin' is; and all brought on thro' me merely a-sayin' as it were a pity as there weren't no king for a 'ead to open this 'ere Exhibition with.

So I says to one of them Frenchmen, “*Quel pitie que vous n’avez par d’une rore pour mettez tu late sur votre Expersition.*”

Up jumps one, and says, “*Jammy a bar les rore.*”

Up jumps another, and shouts “*Weeve Ouri sank;*” and the other shouts “*Weeve l’Umperure.*”

I says, “*Bravo ; have ’em all three, so as you ’as some one.*”

“*Ah !*” says the fust, “*you dam old Inglish pig, wot would make a ’eads of a king on the top of that building superb.*”

I says, “*I never said so, but,*” I says, “*you cer-tingly do wanta ’ead, and if you can’t get a king’s, get a hempror’s, orevena queen’s, as ’ll do for a makeshiff.*”

“*Ah ! ah !*” he says, “*we no want a old lady like Wictorier, let ’er make ’er shiff at ’ome.*”

I says, “*Ally woos ong, and be ’anged to you. Who are you a-callin’ old. Do you think as we’d ever trust ’er to you, arter the way as you treated your own queen, as shows as you don’t value a suvrin by the way, as I’ve see ’er ‘casho ’ this werry day in Pally de Justiss, and a nice notion of justiss ; and as to shiffs, ’adn’t ’ardly a rag to ’er back ; and do you suppose as we should let Queen Wictoria work at ’er own royal body-linen. No,*” I says. “*Wot-ever was to ’appen, she would never be put upon like that ; and as to runnin’ ’er down, there may be low*



blackguars as does it, but she can well afford for to look down with spurn on such kennile."

"Ah!" says one, "you call us kennile."

I says, "Not you, as can't 'elp wot your grand-fathers did, tho' I'm afraid it will come 'ome to you, as couldn't 'ave been no men for to treat any woman like that, let alone a queen, as poor dear soul were that neglected as she 'ad to borrar clothes of the jailer's wife thro' not 'avin' a change of linen to be murdered in, the wile old Johnny Crapo as they was."

Jest then Miss Pilkinton chimes in, and says, "Oh, dear Martha, why ever can't you let bygones be bygones, now, dear, do 'old your tung over sich things."

"No," I says, "certingly not, when they dares to be insultin' over our Queen, as they ain't fit to look at."

Old Pelto, he got werry excited, and begun a-sayin' as I'd been and insulted the French nation."

I says, "Never, Jammy," I says, "as is 'le bel France,' as I'oners, but not your 'Robberspears,' nor yet your Bonyparts, nor more than Gambetter or Old Tears, as were a reglar 'umbug; and as to Gambetter, and sich like, I'd send 'em to the lantern, as is their own cry, pretty quick;" and I says, "I tell you wot it is, you won't never prosper a-puttin' down religion, and insultin' of all decent people."

“Ah!” says Mrs. Pelto, as always was the Irish perswashun, as is the same as the French, she says, “they won’t ’ave no priests nor blessin’s, and you’ll see what a mull they’ll make of it;” there was such a row on them words, for all them men, whether they was for Bonyparty or any other party, was down on religion, and insulted poor Mrs. Pelto, as was bein’ bullied.

So I up and spoke, and says, “You are nice liberals you are, as is bigger bigots than ever lived, and you’ll go on from bad to wuss, till you’re a regular noosance to everybody; and I tell you, as a friend, wot it is, if you don’t be’ave yourselves better we shall ’ave to come and put you down agin, as’ll be wuss than Waterloo.”

Them words reglar settled ’em. I thought as they was all gone mad, for they shook their fists at me, and “sacreed” frightful.

So I says, “Tessaz woo, can’t you; lacez more parler pourisplicker mon meanin. Her je woo deer.”

They would ’ear no reason, and as to Old Pelto, he danced agin with rage, and was a-goin’ to strike me I do believe; so I didn’t make no more ado, but jumps up and gives a rush to my room, and bolts both doors, as was two rooms one out of the other, and me and Brown got the inner room, not a-thinkin’ wot I was a-doin’, thro fear of them

French, as come a-'owlin' and shyin' things after me like wild beasts, as 'ad said as they'd pitch Mrs. Peltó out of the winder for a-tryin' to purtect me, poor thing ! ”

As to Miss Pilkinton she went off at the beginnin' of the row, cos one of those French fellers used sich dreadful words as she couldn't set and 'ear, tho' I don't believe as she understood 'im.

I got in my room, and throwed myself on the bed a-pantin' for life, with my 'art in my mouth, and could 'ear them all a-stormin' away.

I says, “ Mussy on us, wot will Brown say ? ”

“ Don't mind me,” says Brown, as were crouched up in a corner of the bed.

I says, “ Wotever are you a-layin' like that for, all of a 'eap.”

“ Oh ! ” he says, “ I'm a wictim of the terror, waitin' quiet, for my fate as is the gallinteen, and all thro' you.”

I says, “ Never ; they shan't 'urt a 'air of your 'ead while I stands by, for wot I've said I'll stick to.”

“ Ah ! ” says Brown, “ but that won't save me, as expects to 'ear my name called every hinstant.”

“ Well,” I says, “ keep up your pecker, old man, and die game afore these 'ere French frogs, as ain't men ; but,” I says, “ you ain't Brown, why whoever are you ? ”

He says, "'Ush, I'm the Dorfin, as they all thinks dead."

"Why," I says, "you died in the Temple of Jerusalem thro' bein' that ill-treated by the Jews."

"No," he says, "I escaped, and I'm goin' to be Napoleon the Fourth, as is only son of the Count de Shambore, as is grandson to Lewy Filip, as run away without 'is wig in a 'ackney coach, and come over to England in the name of Smith, along with that there Hempress Ugene, as they calls her, as ain't no hempress at all, as am Joan of Ark myself."

"Law," I says, "'ow you do run on, you're enuf to take any one's breath away."

"Ah!" she says; "so would yours be if you'd been cut up as I 'ave been, and burnt for a witch."

"Why," I says, "you ain't never the fieldmale as the pieces 'ave been found in 'er own apartment, as was cut up by 'er own consurgery, and did ought to be at the Morg?"

"No," she says; "I'm Madame Rachel, as am beautiful for ever, and come over 'ere to do all the French ladies up for the Exhibition, as 'ave made the Englishwomen that spiteful, as they've been a-persecutin' me and got me five years for bein' a 'Ebrer Jew, as I ain't a bit, thro' bein' born in 'Ounsditch, as I would prove to you in a instant if there was a bit of 'am sanwich or a pork-pie 'andy. Cos I used to be turned on reglar 'ere in Lewy

Napoleon's time, and did do up the 'ole Court, as is why they kep' up appearances so well to the werry last."

"Ah!" I says, "I don't like them double-face ways."

She says, "No double-face at all, only a little pumiss-stone and powder over glycereen, as it don't do to kiss, as is why the French 'ave give up kissin' so much."

"Well," I says, "as you knows so much, praps you can tell me who's a-goin' to be 'ead of this 'ere Exhibition?"

"Why, I am, to be sure," says a voice; and I turns, and if there wasn't Gladstin, in full uniform and a cock 'at and feathers, with a ax in 'is 'and, as he pints to, with a wink, and says to me, "This is wot the French understands."

I 'eard someone a-singin', "There stands a post!" and looks round, and if there wasn't Lord Bakinsfield, with Queen Wictorier on 'is arm, a-walkin' in to breakfast at a caffy.

"Oh! let me pour out the tea for you," says Ugene, as were dressed up like a Chineese. She says, "Ain't it a good get up? and I've got Lewy 'ere as a Siamese twin, and tells 'em as the other 'ave been cut off; and there's that old Marshal that blazin'——"

"'Ush!" says Queen Wictorier; "we've all

got our faults, and I don't like to 'ear anyone run down."

"Partikler not over their tea," says the Duchess of Edinburrer, as were a-takin' 'ern out of a sarser, and a-blowin' of it.

"Ah! you likes your tea a la Roosh," I says, "as no doubt they made it too 'ot for you in Ing-land. But," I says, "wotever 'ave brought your royal ma-in-law over 'ere?"

"Oh!" she says, "'er and pa, as come with Cook's Escursion, is goin' to 'ave a meetin' on the quiet about grantin' a penshun to that there Sultin, if he'll come and rule over France jest for the Exhibition."

"He ain't a-goin' to do anythink of the sort," says the Shar of Persia, "for I've come all the way myself, tho' incog., thro' a-knowin' as the French wanted a 'ead."

"Well," says the Prince of Wales, "this is orkard, cos the Sultin 'ave 'ad the subjc mentioned to 'im by the Hempror of Roosher, as said it would be a easy way for 'im to back out of Turkey."

"Well," I says, "in my opinion, you'll best let old Beastmark settle it, cos he's sich a bully as nobody dursn't contradict, and he's so 'ated a'ready that it don't matter 'is bein' 'ated a little bit more."

"But wot are we do with the Sultin?" says the Prince of Wales.

"Oh! bile 'im down in 'is own grease," says Beastmark, as was a-listenin', and put 'is 'ead in at the door; "or put 'im in the Turkish Bath Department, for he's too shabby to be put for'ard now, as he's been obliged to put away all 'is jewels, and ain't got no money nor yet fine toggery."

I says to the Shar, "'Ave you brought all them fine things as you wore when you was in London?"

"Not a bit on it. I'm 'ere incog., and I couldn't bring my finery, cos my people wouldn't let me take 'em out, as all comes of me a-bein' persuaded to let 'em 'ave a constitution; but," he says, "they'll soon rig me out in the Pally Royal with them sham things, as'll please the French as much as the real."

"Ah!" I says, "everythink is bogus now-a-days in France, cos nobody ain't got no confidence; but," I says, "I 'opes you won't 'urt the poor Sultin's feelins. You can surely put 'im somewheres where he'll be only part seen, a-settin' cross-legged."

"Yes," says the Prince of Wales, "it must be so, cos 'is old clothes will never clean up fit to make a fine show in front, so he can be kep' quiet along with the Turkey sponges, as he can sell by day, and sleep under the counter at night, and the French must put up with the Shar, cos there ain't a suvrin

in Urope as will trust 'is crowned 'ead in France over a night or two."

"Somethink must be done," says Marshal MacMarn, "if it's only the Lord Mare, cos 'ere's the openin' day close at 'and, and the Prince of Wales in 'is shirt-sleeves night and day, a-'elpin' paper 'is own apartments; and as to the Princess, she don't want to come, cos there ain't no place ready for 'er."

"Nor yet anyone for 'er to 'sociate with," I says, "but a set of dressed-up dolly mops of Sultin's wives, as the sayin' is, so I am glad as she 'ave showed a proper pride in not comin' "

"Oh!" says Queen Wictorier, "we're werry comfortable along with Mr. Cook, as 'ave took both Cardnal Mannin' and the Archbishop of Cantleberry all over the world, and made teatotalers of 'em both."

"Well," I says, "there I don't agree, cos I knows what stimmylints is."

"So do I," says the Marshal, as were a-settin' with 'is nightcap in 'is 'and, jest a-goin' to take it off afore goin' to bed.

"Ah!" I says, "sperrits 'ave saved many a life, but no reason as they should run away with you."

"'Ere's your 'ealth, old gal," says the Marshal, with a wink, as I looked at 'im like a thunderbolt



'angin' over 'im, cos I ain't in the 'abit of bein' winked at, but, in course, he's been obliged to wink at a good deal so as to keep 'is place, not but wot I wonders as he didn't give it up.

Says Queen Wictorier, "No pollytics, Martha, if you please, cos you'll be sure to say somethink as will give offence."

"Well," I says, "we've all come out to enjoy ourselves, so let's drop pollytics."

"Yes," says the Marshal, "till the Exhibition's over, and then you'll see," and he give me another wink. He says, "Let them come as likes, and if the new Pope don't choose to, let 'im stop away."

I says, "If Grabidaldi's a-comin', the Pope wouldn't be seen a-ridin' in the same cart with such rubbish."

"Martha," says Queen Wictorier, "I'm a-goin' to be 'ead of this 'ere Exhibition."

I says, "Never. We won't trust you to the French, as would be a-playin' foot-ball with your royal 'ead. No," I says, "you may paternise 'em, and let Halbert Hedward come over, jest for the look of the thing; but if he were a son of mine, he shouldn't stop long among sich a radical lot."

Says Queen Wictorier, "Right you are, Martha; and I tell you wot it is, I'm a-goin' to invest some old ladies with a order, and you shall make one."

I says, "Any orders as your Majesty thinks fit to give shall 'ave my best attentions."

"Oh!" she says, "I mean a decoration."

I says, "I do 'ope you aint a-goin' to let yourself down to givin' parties a bit of red ribbin to wear in their button-'oles, as'll make us as common as the French," I says, "as is a friverlus lot, and is pleased to get a bit of ribbin or rubbish as they calls a order; not as they knows 'ow to keep themselves in order, and will be a-breakin' out agin wery soon, a-murderin' poor, 'elpless, unharmed parties. So," I says, "wotever you do, don't stop; let 'em 'ave the Shar, or the Sultin, or old Beast-mark, or even the Hemperor of Roosher, as is about their size; but," I says, "do pray, go 'ome, and keep the Princess and 'er young royal family at 'ome, as 'ave showed a more proper sperrit in stoppin' at 'ome."

"Hullo!" I says to Marshal MacMyown, "wotever is that row I 'ears?"

"Oh!" he says, "it's the Commune a-tryin' to bust out; but they're not a-goin' to till the Exhibi-tion is over, and then I'm all right, I am."

I says, "It sounds as if they was a-tryin' to break my door in; but, for goodness' sake, put your wig straight, and set upright on your 'orse, and stop them 'iccups, for," I says, "Queen Wictorier will leave the room, for she won't stop in 'er own

drorin-room if parties moves about too much, as makes 'er giddy, partikler with a smell of sperrits like this."

Jest then I 'eard a shoutin' and a violent row ; so I says to Queen Wictorier, "Them devils is at it agin ; let's be off, here's another riverlution."

I 'eard a moanin' noise, and says, "Don't fret."

"Ah !" says a woice, "it's werry well for you, at your age ; but think of me a-perishin' so young and lovely, for to go to my grave with my 'ead off."

I says, "Don't be a fool, Anna Maria," for, instead of Queen Wictorier, there set Miss Pilkinton a-weepin', with 'er nose a-shinin' like a frost-bitten chilblain. I says, "Wot are you 'owlin' about ?"

"Oh !" she says, "we're on a timbrel, a-goin' to be gallanteened, like the French Queen as we saw in prisin to-day."

"Weli," I says, "thank goodness, we're better off than 'er, poor soul, for I've got plenty of clean linen and two pair of shoes, and my walkin' boots into the bargain. But," I says, "wot 'ave we done?"

"Oh !" she says, "it's all your fault, thro' aggrawatin' them so over supper."

I says, "Come on, we'll escape."

So I takes and slips off that timbrel, and drags Anna Maria along with me on to the floor, and says,

“Come on, let’s crawl away when no one ain’t a-lookin’.”

Just then there were a orful crash, as made me jump, and I says, “I’ll sell my life dear, and so come on!”

I looks up, and there was a lot on ’em afore me, and more a-comin’ in at the door.

I says, “Stand back! or I’ll brain some of you song-culots!”

“Hallo, old gal! at it agin?” says Brown, a-comin’ for’ard. “Why, what will you do next?”

I says, “Wot ’ave I done? Where’s Anna Maria Pilkinton, as fell off the timbrel with me, and ’ave preaps fell into Egypt’s dark sea?”

“Get up!” says Brown, a-liftin’ me off the floor, as was about as much as he could manage with Mrs. Pelto’s ’elp, as ’ad come in, and says, “I’m thankful it’s no wuss. Why, you ain’t even undressed!”

I says, “I’m all of a whirl. Wotever ’ave ’appened?”

“Why,” says Mrs. Pelto, “you come to bed and locked the doors of both rooms, a-forgettin’ as Mr. Jones were to sleep in this outer room, as ’ad agreed to go to bed arter you was in your room, and get up afore you was out of it.”

As in course then I remembered were ’ow Mrs. Pelto ’ad managed to take us all in, not as I can abear them rooms as goes one out of the other, as

don't never seem like your own private apartments.

Brown didn't say nothink to me that night, but give me a jobation in the mornin', a-sayin' as he'd go back 'ome and leave me if ever I was to say another word as could 'urt the feelin's of a French fly, as in course was rong on me, but I did feel aggrywated at them French fools a-sneerin' at Queen Wictorier, as don't know their own langwidge, and would take and butcher anyone as soon as look at 'em, for I've see the place where they murdered that Archbishop jest out of spite, the nasty, mean, cowardly sassins, as if I 'ad my way shouldn't be allowed not to stop in London, not even in Newport Market, as is a deal too good for sich a wile lot of cowards, as is glad enuf to sneak away, as I'd 'and over to the Prooshins, as is only wot they're fit for ; and tho' I couldn't see anyone 'ung for the world, I do 'ope to 'ear as they've shot that willin as killed them Ginrals, leastways 'ad 'em killed, as I wouldn't show no mercy to not on no terms.

We all met werry good friends in the mornin', but Brown he'd been and made up his mind as we'd go and stop in a more Inglish place like, for he says "Turks and Rooshins aint nothink to you, Martha, and the French, as'll end in blows."

But when I mentioned a-leavin' to Mrs. Pelto, she were put out at fust, tho' she arterwards said

as she knowed a party outside the barryair, as they calls it Passy, cos you can't pass without bein' searched, as could commerdate us, within a stone's throw of the Exhibition, as was werry well for 'er, but a good walk for me.

"But," she says, "surely you won't go to leave me till arter the fust, as will be the openin' "

"Well," I says, "I think I must, cos I shall 'ave more friends 'ere by that time," as true enuf turned up, a-goin' to stop at Cook's Tourist's 'Ome, as is in the Fai Songderie, as is close to Passy. Not as Mrs. Pelto could 'ave took us all in at 'er Mason Moobly in Paris, as is only a floor arter all, "o sankyaim," as they calls it, "o dessoo l'entersol," as is another floor, tho' a low roof, and them stairs was pretty nigh my death, with my breath that short, and mylimbs a-tremblin' under me.

So I were glad for to go and live out quiet at Passy, as is "Ose ongvirong," as they calls it, close agin where Cook's escursions puts up. As Mrs. Pelto says is a noble 'ouse furnished fit for lords and ladies, with what the French calls a "annecks," as is next door, fitted up all en sweet, and clean too, for parties as don't want to dip too deep in their pockets, and yet be quite genteel all the same, cos we all knows, money don't make ladies and gentlemen.

Mrs. Pelto, she 'ave knowed Mr. Cook for years,

like me, not as I knowed so much as 'er about 'is ways in Paris, thro' Mrs. Pelto's bein' the same butcher as 'im as killed the helefant in the siege, thro' bein' starvin', so begun to live on the other beasts in the Jewlogical Gardins, as was drove to it thro' 'unger, as is a sharp thorn, tho' a 'orful thought to dewour wild beasts, like rats, as is things I don't fancy, but wouldn't come 'ard on the French, thro' bein' partial to mice, and considerin' of frogs and snails a dainty, as is things I don't fancy, not even a pennywinkle myself, as some relishes with their teas, and once tasted a welk, as I couldn't swaller, and I'm sure I should look twice afore I took to 'orseflesh; but, bless my 'art, nobody can't never tell wot they'd do, if drove to it by 'unger, the same as a shipwreck, where parties as been knowed to live for weeks on nothing but a raft, tho' some 'ave been said to eat their own flannin' waistcoats, and even flesh and blood, and on dry land, too, afore now; the same as that party as went to see the cattycombs, and got shet in and left behind, as is all underneath Paris; as were found behind a door, days arter, dewourin' of 'is own shoulders, as must 'ave been tuff work, and 'owever he got at 'em, I can't think, but it don't do to dwell on them things as is too 'orrible.

I must say as I were took aback when I come to think of the orful prices as things was a-goin' to

be in Paris, and 'ad arf a mind to stop the others from a-comin'; only Mrs. Pelto, she says to me, "Do come fust, and see Cook's 'ouse."

So I says, "I'm agreeable," a-thinkin' as it would only be right in me for to make a pint of goin' over the place, as seein' is believin'

And pleased I am I did go over the 'ouse afore the others come, as is fitted up all new; and if it 'adn't been for 'avin' gone fust to friends in Passy, I'd 'ave stayed there myself, as is where Queen Wictorier might put up, and no one be a bit the wiser, as likes a-travellin' inconyter, as is 'er 'abits, thro' not a-wantin' to 'ave Parlymint a-botherin' over the expense, and a-wantin' to know where she goes; nor yet old MacMyown neither, as she wouldn't 'ave even 'is bullion, as the cook was sent in a broom with a tureen on the last time as she passed thro' Paris a-goin' to Germany, and didn't even let down the winder for fear of the night hair, as aint none of the sweetest, I can tell, thro' bein' nearly poisoned myself a-goin' ome late thro' them widanjer a-playin' of their 'oses all over the street, as may be the way to keep people in their 'ouses at night, and is certingly a deal better for to play water on 'em, tho' it may be foul play, than to let fly at 'em with cannons like the "coo-de-tar," or even pertroleum, as was the little game of them wile Communerds, as they calls 'em; as I 'opes as the Marshal 'ave got a



rod in pickle for, as the sayin' is, if ever they should dare show their noses above-ground agin.

I must say as I considers the French beastly ignorant in some things, and as to their langwidge, it's downright foolishness, thro' constant a-puttin the cart afore the 'orse, and talkin' about "I you loves," instead of "I loves you," as is all plain sailin'; and then not a-pronouncin' of things as they spells 'em, and a-spellin' things 'rong, like caffy for coffee, and callin' of a drinkin'-place the same as the drink they sells; as is only a blind, arter all, cos they sells both wines and sperrits, tho' a pretendin' as it's only "caffy o lay" or "caffy nore."

Talk of droppin' of your h'es, why, they drops their t'es, and their g's, and can't pernounce a w right, escept in wee, and as to their numbers they don't run above sixty not in a reglar line, cos they calls seventy, sixty ten, sixty eleven, and so on, up to "kattry wang," as is eighty. They certingly are clever people, no doubt, and if they was properly edicated, might in time get on, but they must turn over a new leaf, and not be a-workin' all day Sunday, as makes 'em be always a-wantin' river-lutions, and a-'ankerin' arter other people's property, with everybody a-tryin' to be king over everybody and everywheres, like Old Bonyparty, as that were 'ow he come to die under a willer tree, in the middle of the oshun, as I knowed a party werry well, as see

'im there, as looked in jest in passin', on the way to Injier, as said he were a fat, flabby, yaller-lookin' little man, and decided bilious, as no doubt were the 'eat; and was in Paris myself, when that foolish old man, Lewy Filip, 'ad 'is bones brought back, not but wot he 'ad to ask Queen Wictorier for, as said she'd ask the Dook of Wellin'ton's leave, as answered quite short, "He didn't care a tuppeny dam wot they did with 'is body, or 'is bones either," as was only usin' of them low life words for deeploomatic langwidge, as is always like that, not ever meanin' wot you says. Yes, old Lewy Filip were a donkey not to let that sleepin' dog lay, as the sayin' is, as they've been and put among them poor old Invaleeds, as I considers werry unfeelin', for to bring a funeral under their werry noses, poor things, as in course would infect their sperrits, thro' bein' out of 'ealth theirselves, as in genral do impress the sperrits, as is why poor Mrs. Topham didn't never rally till they moved 'er from them lodgin's in the 'Arrer Road, as told me 'erself, one arternoon, she counted forty funerals passin' atween dinner and tea.

Not as I 'olds with this 'ere criminashun as means burnin' of your remains to hashes, for tho' that's wot we shall all come to in the hend, yet not like bein' berried decent in my opinion, as was all werry well for them anshent Roman Catherlics

as was used to it; but won't do for me, and as to savin' of your hashes, to keep in a urn on the mantel-shelf, I wouldn't 'ave it done in my 'ouse, as can't abear keepin' locks of people's airs myself, as in genral comes to the dust'ole in the end, which ain't pleasant, for tho' we are nothink but dust and ashes, we didn't ought to be took away by the parish dustman.

Not as I 'olds with them funerals as they 'as over in Paris, for parties as 'ave been and died with wot they calls the "spree fore," and won't 'ave 'em berried with no religion over 'em, as is 'ighly disgraceful.

Cos 'ow can them parties as is still livin' know wot the feelin's is of them as is dead and gone, partikler at the last, and let's 'ope as there's a many as 'ave lived disgraceful thinks better on it afore they 'ave died, even tho' French; for there were a party as I see once or twice at Mrs. Pelto's as looked in of a evenin' late, and were called the Markee, as lived on the top of 'er 'ouse, not as he ever were a Markee, nor yet a Count, but were a reglar "rouge," as is the French way of spellin' rogue, I suppose.

I couldn't never a-bear that man's talk, as were reglar slaughter-'ouse work, as he seemed for to glory in murders, as 'ad been and run away years ago over to England, and lived there, but come back

for the Commune, and married a Inglish wife, poor thing, as I remembered all about when they began to reckon 'im up one night arter he'd went up to bed. When fust I 'card the name, as were Ferroo, it never struck me as I'd knowed it before, but so it turned out, as was werry singler in 'is ways, as I did used to think a little touched in 'is 'ead, thro' 'avin' of a silver plate in it, thro' a wound as he got with a bit of stone in the fust seege. He were a darky, thro' bein' born in the West Hinges, so were one of them 'arf-breeds, thro' bein' only French on the father's side, as would boast over wot he'd been and done with them Communeards in Paris (a nice lot, as they proved theirselves), and gloried in 'avin' murdered all sorts and sizes.

I 'ad see the man once or twice, without noticin' 'im much, as looked a dirty old willin', and spoke beastly bad Inglish, as he despised, thro' a-gloryin' in bein' French.

Not as he lodged along with Mrs. Pelto, but lived over 'er top back, with only a light in the roof. Pelto would 'ave 'im in, tho' he were always a mask of filth, and in genral in licker, partikler Sunday, and 'ow he got the money to drink with, I can't think, escept thro' wot he might pick up in charity, as bein' a cripple, as dragged 'is leg arter 'im, and a black patch over 'is eye. Any 'ow he did manage for to get money some'ow; but when he took to 'is

bed no one went near 'im for days, till Mrs. Pelto couldn't stand it no longer, for parties as lived under 'im said as they 'eard 'im groanin', so up she went, and 'ad just come down as I come in, a-lookin' like ashes.

"Oh!" she says, "Mrs. Brown, I'm sure as he's a-dyin', 'avin' met with a axidence, and a wheel gone over 'is thigh, and 'ow he got 'ome he can't think."

I says, "Ain't he 'ad no doctor?"

"Oh!" she says, "I've sent for one."

"Oh!" I says, "to one o' them places where they suckers the bleessy, I suppose."

"Yes," she says, "they'll send a doctor, a scorde charity; tho'," she says, "he ain't no more religion than a dog."

"Ah!" I says, "some aint; not as we knows much about dog's religions."

"Ah!" she says, "I'm sure as dogs be'aves theirselves much better than Christshuns, leastways sich Christshuns as this old man is."

"Ah!" I says, "a reglar out-and-out bad un all round, I should say."

"Yes," she says, "and I think as he's been a friend in better days to the party as owns this 'ouse, so lets 'im live in the garret under the slates, and Pelto he will notice 'im, cos he remembers 'im a swell, and 'ad 'is own carridge to drive in, and

married a Inglish wife as he be'aved orful to, and let 'er die in a 'ospital, tho' he 'ad plenty, and when the Commune broke out he was one of the fust, and boasts now on the quiet of wot he did; leastways he's been obligated to 'ide 'is 'ead pretty much, thro' only bein' just out of prisin when he come 'ere, and did used to swear and blaspheme orful till I stopped 'im a-goin' on where I was, as I wouldn't stand 'is orful words agin religion and morals, as says murder is lorful, and as for wives, why, they did all ought to be lovin' to everybody, and there didn't ought to be no families."

I says, "The willin; wotever did you say the name were?"

She says, "Ferroo, or somethink like that."

"Why," I says, "I knowed 'is wife, as were lady's maid over in Paris. You don't mean to say as he 'ave come down to that misery, as used to dress sportin', and drive a dog-cart about Paris, thro' bein' in the fancy line, and were ashamed of 'is wife, tho' he took 'er wages."

She says, "That's 'im."

I says, "I knowed 'im in 'is swell days, tho' he was a nice sort of a swell, he was; but," I says, "I wonder wotever the doctor will say of 'im."

"No 'opes, you may be sure," she says. "He's a old man, and past doctors."

Jest then we was told as the doctor 'ad come,

and Mrs. Pelto went out for to see 'im, and when she come back I says, "Wot's he say to 'im?"

"Oh," she says, "he's past everythink, and the doctor is a-goin' to send the sister for to nurse 'im. But," she says, "would you mind the stairs, and come up and see 'im? I'm goin' to give 'im this drop of bullion."

Well, I did mind the stairs, and I did mind the tops of them French 'ouses, as is many on 'em downright beastly enuf to kill a dog; but, as I knowed somethink of 'im, I thought as it might be a kindness to a dyin' man.

So up with 'er I goes to the top floor, as were a nice drag, and there I see, a-layin' on a beastly old bedstead, a 'eap of filth, a orful objic as was more like a wild hanimal than a man.

"Law," I says, "poor wretch! Get a light." For it were gettin' quite dusk. I says, "'Ow could they let 'im get like this?"

"Oh," she says, "it's 'is own furniture, as he wouldn't never let anyone get into 'is room till I went up this morning."

So when she got a light I give a good look at 'im, and even then I couldn't never 'ave knowed the man agin, as was a-sinkin' rapid.

So I says, "Bless your 'art, bullion ain't no more good to 'im than gold or silver, as he's past all that. Go for a drop of brandy." For I 'adn't

got my drops with me, as were a oversight, for the place were dreadful.

I set on the hedge of that bed while Mrs. Pelto was gone, a-watchin' espirin' life, jest like a candle a-goin' out. But he didn't take no notice on me, not till she come back with the brandy, as I took and dropped into 'is mouth, a drop at a time, till he breathed more free, and opened 'is eyes.

So I takes up the light and give a good look at 'im, and there he was Ferroo, tho' I'd never recognized 'im afore, tho' not shaved for weeks, nor yet washed.

So I says, "He's a-goin' fast, and it's orful to think of 'im a-dyin' like this. Wherever is this sister, as did ought to fetch a priest?"

"Oh," she says, "he won't never 'ear nothink about prayers, and threw 'is crutch at the English Mishin as is over 'ere, as come to see 'im, and offered to read to 'im the Sunday afore last, and nearly knocked one of them Bible parties down stairs backards, for puttin' of 'is 'ead in at the door to offer 'im a track, and used to go on a-sayin' as there wasn't no God, nor yet no future state, as he could prove."

"Ah!" I says, "he were like a many more fools, as talks rubbish over wot they don't know nothink about; but," I says, "don't you know no minister no obody to send to?"



She says, "Parties comes round with tracks, lookin' arter the Inglish all over Paris every other Monday, as I always takes one myself, and keeps it clean agin the time as they comes round to change it, not as I knows wot it's about, thro' not bein' their perswashun, tho' one were called 'Jerusalim the Goldin'." But," she says, "that French sister he were werry quiet with, and she will pray to 'im, as is gone for 'is medsin."

"Well," I says, "this man's a-dyin' rapid; so jest go and see for 'er, or somebody else."

She went off, and I set a-droppin' brandy-and-water down 'is throat, till he seemed to 'ave got 'is senses like, tho' orful weak, and opens 'is eyes a-starin' at me. I says, "Mr. Ferroo?"

He says, "That's my name," a-gaspin'.

I says, "You're werry ill."

He nods 'is 'ead, as much as to say Yes.

I says, "'Ave you got anythink as you wishes to say? I'm a old friend of your wife's, tho' a gal to 'er in age."

He gives a deep groan and shook 'is 'ead, as tho' he were a-tryin' to remember, but couldn't.

Jest then in come Mrs. Pelto with one of them French sisters with the flappity caps, the same as 'ad been in the mornin', and come from the 'Ospital. She spoke Inglish as well as me thro' bein' Irish, tho' edicated in France.

She said, "Allow me," and comes up close to 'im, and took 'old of 'is 'and.

I was afeard as he'd take and lash out at 'er like a fiery steed, but no he didn't; she took and knelt down by his bed, and spoke low and gentle to 'im; I turned away for a minit or two, but 'earin' of 'im breathin' werry 'ard I takes up the light, and see 'im kiss a cross, as that sister were a-'oldin' in 'er 'and, and, with a smile on 'is face, and the next minit he were gone for ever.

That sister she spoke that kind about 'im, and when I said I knowed wot a bad lot he'd been, she only pinte up, as give me a lesson about judgin', for in course she were right in sayin' we didn't never ought to judge our fellow-creeturs, and did ought to 'ope as all will find mercy as we all needs.

As is why I can't a-bear them infidel ways over a-berryin' anybody, as we did ought to 'ope the best for all, and ourselves included, ever to the last.

I were up early in the mornin' the day of the openin' of that Exhibition, as we'd got tickets for, and the pains as I took in dressin' of myself took a deal of time, and wore easy shoes as was too baggy in the sides, as let the pebbles in werry uncomfortable afore the day were out, thro' the walkin' bein' dreadful loose stones. We scrambled thro' our breakfast, so as to get to the place in good

time, as was unsettled weather, with 'eavy showers all day, and I were thankful as the Princess of Wales weren't there, for she'd 'ave been soaked to 'er royal skin, with every rag on 'er spilte.

That Marshal looked werry fine along with all them officers, as was all figged-out in their werry best, and some of them forriners was that grand, as you'd took 'em for real princes, as some on 'em were; along with kings and queens, tho' all out of place with "Weeve la Republeek" all round 'em; tho', for my part, I can't think whyever the French didn't take and engage one on 'em, if it was only for a time, jest for the look of the thing, cos they looked ridiculus for to 'ave 'em all stuck up in a row, as if they was somebody, when everybody knowed as they was nobody.

I must say as I did cry "Weeve la France!" as loud as anybody, when that there Marshal, and the Prince of Wales, and all them swells come into that buildin', with music and fountings all a-playin', and all set out that gay, with all them flags a-flyin', tho' dreadful unfinished in parts, and the bands was beautiful; and as to them fountings, when set a-playin', they come a-flowin' down all over the place; not as they was wanted, for jest then down came the rain, as drenched us. I were jest under cover and should 'ave been kep' dry, if a great big beast of a Frenchman, as is the rudest people out,

tho' dressed out and laced in, with 'is mustache all waxed to a pint, 'adn't come and reg'lar shoved me out of my place, a-tryin' to take it for 'isself.

I says, " Moosooo, manners makes the man. Wherever are you a-shovin' to? "

He only give a grin, a-pretendin' not to understand me, and kep' a-pushin'; so I says, " Parley, more du manyare fransay, indeed de traitay un dam semblable cela mes choses song too nuf, et la raine est tray veet."

He didn't say a word.

" Ah! " I says " Vou pretenday non comprenny more, may—See mon marry, comes up; he'll pretty soon tiray voter nay for you."

It wasn't no use a-talkin' to the great 'ulkin' brute no more, as only grunted and got afore me; and there I stood in the rain, as 'ad a full view of everythink, includin' of the Prince of Wales, as I must say I did think were not in 'is proper spear, with nobody but all them decomposed kings and queens, and Red Republicans, all of a 'eap a-standin' round 'im a-'oorayin' for the Red Republic, as is wot I don't 'old with any more than 'is royal ma, as would 'ave given 'im one of 'er looks; cos it was like their French impidence a-'ollerin' " Weeve la Republeek " jest when the Prince come out, as was sneerin' ways; but, law! he didn't mind, and only larfed in 'is sleeve, a-knowin' as we would stand no

Red Republics. Certingly it were a fine sight to see all them ginirals and marshals; and they do say as there was a many more royal parties there on the strick q. t., as the sayin' is.

I see there was one party as I thought at fust must 'ave been somebody, tho' he didn't want to be known, aperiently, as were dressed in black welwet and a gold chain round 'is neck, with long grey 'air and a red face, as parties said were a disguised English Lord Mare.

I says, "Rubbish! You wouldn't ketch the Lord Mare of nowheres in Ingland a-comin' out like that. No, no," I says, "he's a forriner, as might be Beastmark in disguise," for he were all over the place that man, a-showin' 'isself.

I must say there were one stout party as they said were the Queen of Spain; she were dressed beautiful, and is a fine figger for to show it off, and looks quite jolly. Poor thing! it's 'ard lines to be drove away from your country by your own son, and your own 'usban' a-standin' by, as dare not put in a word for you, thro' not bein' on speakin' terms, as I don't consider proper in no one, kings and queens or not.

Well, jest as the percession were a-formin', with the fountings and band all a-playin', down come the rain, and up went the umbrellers, as in course spilte the 'ole thing. As to the people, they

pushed, crushed, and drove like bullocks broke loose.

As for me, I were swep' like a mounting torrirt all the way down ; and wot with the rain a-pourin' and the umbrellers drippin', I was soaked, as I must say, put me out, and I says, "Bother the Exhibition, and them as ever thought on it !"

I'm sure I didn't wish no 'arm to the Exhibition, for I reglar loves France, and French too, when they be'aves theirselves ; so only spoke thro' bein' that wexed in 'avin' of all my trouble for nothink ; cos I couldn't see nothink for umbrellers, let alone 'avin' all my best things spilte, tho' damp a'ready thro' that great 'ulkin' French feller a-takin' my place. I should 'ave been reglar drenched to the skin, only but for friends as was inside a restorong close by, a-goin' to lunch, and see me, and 'ad me in.

As to their French in gen'ral, they showed their naturs, tho' they was well dressed, as they don't know no manners, and only be'aves theirselves when they've got someone over 'em, as will give 'em toke, if they goes too far.

But, bless you, no ruffs wasn't never more ruder than them Parisiongs all over the place, tho' they was swells, leastways dressed like it, as come up to one place, and reglar seized on a lot of chairs as a party at a restorong 'ad got to let out to 'is

customers, and it wasn't no use that man a-per-testin' and a-tryin' to stop them from takin' them chairs away, as they reglar collared, and carried off, and never paid for, nor yet other things as got 'old on, as be'aved shameful, and no perlice to keep order.

It were werry pervokin' over the weather, a-comin' down jest as the percession were a-goin' round, and things would 'ave went rong if it 'adn't been as parties was that good natured over it all, includin' the Prince of Wales, as might 'ave chucked it, but only larfed at everythink, even at their callin' out, "Weeve la Republeek," when he fust come in, under 'is werry nose, as some says were the reason as he put on 'is 'at; but I knows for certin' as it were thro' 'im a-feelin' of the rain on the top of 'is crown, as falls sharp where the 'air is thin.

But, bless my 'art, that buildin' the size on it, why, I shouldn't never get to the end on it, nor anybody else, not in one day, if I was to get up ever so early, leastways, I couldn't get no way at all, not the fust day, when we was a-goin' along, wot with the wet and the scrougin', we was all drove up together, and a-walkin' thro' the slush and wet, all along that street of all nations, and the crowd kep' a-breakin' thro' the percession, as shows as all nations is pretty nigh the same when there's anythink to be seen, and will tread one another

under foot to try and get the fust place, as is wot is called hemilation, as is wot Exhibitions no doubt is meant for to encourage.

Wot with the wet and the crowd, there wasn't much to beseen thefust day, and I were that bedaубed and draggled, with my shoes nearly trod down at 'cel, so I says to myself, "I'll get 'ome some'ow," as were easier said than done, for I couldn't find no way out, tho' I kep a-walkin' till I nearly dropped, so I makes my way over the bridge, back agin to wot they calls Trokydeero, thro' all the wet and slush, and the crowd. I 'ad been that pushed about all over the place, and lost all my friends, and were werry nigh a-losin' of my ballince, and a-fallin' into the mud, with all my best things on, as were nearly done for, as were as lovely a green soot, and a bonnet to match, as ever was seen, with a new 'ead of 'air as they calls a "nat a la mode de Parry."

Jest as I were a-strugglin' with the crowd, up steps that party in the gold chain, and black welwet, and offers me 'is arm, a-sayin', in takin' off 'is 'at, "Parmetty more, Madam le Rain," and then he pushes parties back a-sayin', "plarse pour la Rain."

I says, "I thank you, my Lord Mare, as it's werry disagreeable a-comin' on wet like this."

He drops my arm like a shot, a-sayin', "Who



the devil are you? Why, they told me you was the Queen of Spain, as 'ad lost your sweet."

I says, "Not I, sir, I aint nothing of the sort, and I knowed as you wasn't never no Lord Mare, nor yet a Alderman, tho' I was told you was;" so I turns my back and walks off with a 'air, cos tho' I aint got a crown to my 'ead, and never 'ad no sweet a-follerin' me, I knows 'ow to be'ave myself, as is more than some as is called queens can say.

But, law bless you, my troubles wasn't 'arf over, for as I couldn't get thro' the crowd, I made my way back and got a chair at that restorong; up comes the waiter with a surjon-de-weel, as said as I 'adn't paid for what I'd 'ad, nor yet the chair as the man along with me 'ad collared, a meanin' that French beast, and if it 'adn't been as a English gentleman as were there, as said I 'adn't touched a chair, thro' seein' me a-gettin' a bit of lunch inside, and spoke up for me, I should have been locked up.

At last I got out of the place, but 'ow to get 'ome were the question; there wasn't no cab, nor yet a bus to be 'ad for love or money, so all as I could do was to walk, and so I did in easy stages, as the sayin' is, and got 'ome at last tho' late, least-ways to Mr. Cook's, as is where the rest on the party was a-stoppin', and if ever I did enjoy my tea it were there, and thankful to get to my bed as was

close by, but that knocked up, as I says, "You don't see me at that Exhibition, nor yet ketch me at no more of your Trockydeeros till I've got over this 'ere openin', as 'ave reglar shet me up."

Brown he 'ad the larf agin me, cos he wouldn't go, but were with friends a-lookin' arter some machinery, as were that 'eavy as it couldn't be got right in time. Tho' that openin' day turned out so bad, I will say one thing as the French is a light-'earted lot, for they was that gay all among the rain, and mud, and slosh, as no doubt ruined many a lovely twilight as were put on new that day.

When I come to think, it were natral enuf for that party to take me for the Queen of Spain, for she were dressed in my colours, and a fine figger of a woman, tho' she looked like a sufferin' lady, no doubt feelin' dull; not as she's like me in the face, with different hairs, so we ain't no more alike than chalk to cheese, as the sayin' is.

It's a pity as they 'adn't got things more for-arder at that Exhibition, but it's a wonder they was as much ready as they was, and 'ow they could 'ang all them lovely picters in the time I can't think, many on them as large as life, and twice as natral, as the sayin' is, as must be miles upon miles, and never can be got thro' in a week I should say. They wouldn't 'ave been as ready as they was but for the Prince of Wales, as kep' 'is eye on 'em

constant, and never 'ardly left the buildin' night or day, except for 'is meals; leastways, not much, as he got a snack in 'is own office, and it's wonderful 'ow quick he 'ave picked up the French, tho' in course it come easy to 'im thro' a knowin' Latin and Greek that well, as is the roots of everythink, like money as they do say is the root of all evil, but that must be when parties berries it, and don't make a good use on it.

I didn't 'ardly go out for days arter that openin'. I was so dead beat, and 'avin' plenty to do a-settin' my things to rights, my time were pretty well filled up, partikler as Miss Pilkinton took to 'er bed thro' the French livin' not a-sootin' 'er constitution, as is all too much cooked for me, except a leg of mutton, as come up blue at the bone, as I couldn't 'ave touched not if a-starvin', as is all werry well for Man Friday savidges, but don't do for me.

Somethink went wrong from the fust with Miss Pilkinton, as is a bilious temperryment, as the doctor said, as she proved in crossin' from Dover to Callis; not but it were smooth like any millpond, as the sayin' is.

Miss Pilkinton she took on terrible the moment as we left the 'arbour with a jerk, and give into screams, so 'ad to be took down to the ladies' cabin, as is where I never goes, as shan't never forget the last time as I did in crossin', as were a lesson to me.

It were terrible ruff, and there wasn't no keepin' your legs at all ; besides, the sea a-drivin' over you in sheets, as they calls spray. So arter a bit I goes below and lays me down on a sofer, as were that narrer as I could 'ardly keep on it, tho' a-clutchin' with all my nails.

At last the wessel give a dip like, and off the sofer I rolls, and 'eard crockery, as were basins, a-crushin' under me. I give a roll over on the floor for to clear them, and 'eard a party give a shriek, and then a little yaller French woman springs at me like a tiger cat, and tries to lift me up.

I says, "Alley, laissez, more tranqueel, siver play." But she kep' on a 'ollerin' and a-tryin' to move me.

I says, "Leave me alone, I'd rather lie 'ere if it was to die."

Up come the stewardess, and says to me, "Let the lady 'ave 'er bonnet."

I says, "I ain't got no one's bonnet, and get up I can't, not if the wessel were a sinkin', with every sail set."

She says, "You must get up, you've got the lady's bonnet under you."

"Nonsense," I says, "I ain't seen no bonnet."

"No," she says, "it were 'ung up, and fell on the floor with a dip of the wessel."

I set up all dizzy like, and sure enuf there was

that little Frenchwoman's bonnet a reglar pancake under me.

I says, "It will pull all right; it's nothin' but ribbin and flowers."

That Frenchwoman bust out a-cryin', and talked to that bonnet as if it 'ad been a baby, and I'm sure as she meant me, by some names as she used, but I didn't care, for we was jest in at Cally, and I did feel thankful and at 'ome like, for it did once used to be England, afore the sea broke thro', jest the same as the Ile of Wight, as were washed away by the Needles, thro' bein' once part of the Continong.

"I'm sure I'm glad as France don't belong to us now, for it would be no peace for neither on us, nothink but rows day and night over Waterloo, let alone the Army and Navy Wolunteers, and perlice doubled, just to bind 'em over to keep the peace, let alone not understandin' one another.

Tho', for that matter, I'm sure as them parties as lives up in Yorksheer and Lankysheer there aint no understanding, as talks that broad, and uses sich improper words that constant as reglar puzzles any one as 'ave 'ad a decent edication.

Well, just as Miss Pilkinton were a-gettin' better, Mrs. Padwick were took bad with one of 'er 'ead-akes, as is all the stomick, so I 'ad my 'ands full, partikler as Mrs. Padwick took it into 'er 'ead as Paris

didn't suit her, as is all rubbish, for the hair is as fresh as a daisy; but as we'd got friends a-livin' at San Germanes, we went there for a week, as is a sweet place, with a lovely wood, as is where King James lived and died in hexile from Herring, as the sayin' is.

I didn't care about a-stoppin' at that place at Passy, partikler as Brown 'ad been and went to Brussels all of a 'urry, a-'untin' after injins, as in course he knows a deal more about than the French, tho' they are werry ingenius over clocks and watches, like the Merrykins, as is cuttin' everybody else out in every line, and is now a-startin' the Communeards over there, as will go a-'ead with a-wengeance, and burn up everythink, thro' 'avin' petroleum ready to their 'ands, as I've seed myself layin' all about the place in barrels a-layin' in rows along the streets in New York, and often thought if any one in lightin' of a pipe, or even a fusee, was to throw it down on one of 'em barrels, Merryker 'd be pretty soon all of a wuss blaze than ever Paris were.

We 'ad a nice ten days in San Germanes, as brought me round, and all the rest too, and when we got back to Paris, as they makes me so wild a-callin' of it Parry, the same as the buses, a-callin' four twenty, eighty, as is 'ow I were kep' waitin' 'ours for my turn at corryspondin', and my ticket were kattery-wang.

I says, "Why four-and-twenty and twenty-four, is all the same ;" but, law, it's no use a-tryin' to set hignorant parties right as glories in their hignorance, as is French all over.

It were jest on three weeks afore I went over that Exhibition agin, and you would 'ave thought as 'Laddin must 'ave been there with 'is magic lantern, for the place were so changed, tho' they was still 'ard at work to finish it up all right. But, law, it would take a 'ole lifetime to see all them lovely things as 'ave come from everywhere, and I don't believe if any one was to live as long as that old man over in Merryker, as is near two hundred years old, they'd see everythink.

As for me, I 'ad one of them shays roolante, as they calls 'em, and were droved like a fairy queen all over the place ; not as they're pleasant for any one as is a full figger, thro' bein' full small, let alone idjots a-grinnin' at you, and some on 'em sky-larkin' ; and the man as were a-drarin' me, like a badger, as the sayin' is, he were not a-lookin' where he were a-goin' to, and took me too close to where parties was a-settin' in a row, and all of a sudden I felt a bump and a shove, with langwidge as it's a mussy it was French, and then I got a wiolent drive, as sent me over, and must have 'ad a bad fall, but for the crowd, as I pitched among, so let me down gentle, and when they picked me up, I were told as

that fellow as drored the chair 'adn't been and took me right over a old gent's toes, as were a marter to gout, as the sayin' is, and come out the fust time for months to 'ave a treat; not as it could 'ave done 'is toes any good to 'ave give me a wiolent kick, as shoved me over, as might 'ave dislocated me all over, and as it was, broke the springs of that chair, tho' some said it were not up to my weight.

I were wonderful pleased with them Jappynees wares, as did used only to be tea-trays and candlesticks when I was a gal, but, bless you, 'ave come out now with their lovely silks and sattins, embroidered beautiful, and wears clothes like Christshuns, tho' you can see as they're pretty nigh Chinees, by the face and eyes, and bein' a wonderful short lot.

There's all the nations a-gabberin' all over the place, with Spanish fandangers, and real blacky-moors, let alone Turks and Merrykins a-filanderin' about.

Let's ope as no war won't break out suddin', as would set 'em all a-fightin' one another, 'specially the Rooshins and Prooshins, as I shouldn't feel safe myself, even.

Cos, in course, the Rooshins would take and pitch into the English fust of all, unawares; and as to the Prooshins, the French, if they 'ad the chance, they would make short work of them in a jiffey.



It must be miles and miles to walk all over that Exhibition buildin'; and it's a mussy as they're a-goin' to lay down tramways all thro' it, as will set you down where you pleases, as will be a blessin' partikler where there's tender feet, with legs not so ounge as they was, let alone corns, as throbs like mad.

There's one thing as is a blessin'; you may start early from 'ome, and spend the 'ole day at that Exhibition, as is full of places of refreshment; but, wotever you do, take a camp-stool, or a somethink, to sit on, for there aint no seats to speak on, not in-doors, tho' there's plenty of corners to put 'em in.

Wotever you do, change your money, leastways your English money, afore you goes in, not for spendin' inside the Exhibition, but for outside, where you must buy your tickets, cos no money aint took at the doors, for I were nicely served the second day as I went, as was by water, and just agin the landin'-place opposite Trockydeero, where I come out, I remembered I 'adn't got no tickets. So I says to Mrs. Padwick's niece, as is jest fourteen, "My dear, jest go over to that there keeosk, as they calls it, and get the tickets, as will be four at a franc a-piece," and I gives 'er arf a sov'rin.'

Back she comes with the tickets, and give me seven francs for change.

I says, "This won't never do," a-thinkin' as it

were some game for to circumvent the gal. So I goes over to that keosk, and there set a winegar-wisaged old cat, as sold the tickets.

I says, "Pardong, mydam, may voos avey fay une herreur."

She only give a scowl.

I says, "Ce june fee ay voo donnay une jemmy sufferin, et voo avey retournay only sett franks."

She begun a-jabberin', as is the way with them French when they don't want to pretend to hunderstand you.

I says, "Ong sufferin Anglay fay wang sang franks, so in course jemmy sufferin is dooze ay jemmy; as don't make ce change ker voos away donnay ar ma petty fee."

She didn't say no more, but she took and snatched the tickets and the change, as I were a-'oldin' in my 'and, away from me.

I says, "Jer dermand les tickits."

She says something about surjon de weel; so, as I see one close by, I goes up to 'im, and says, "Moosoo, jer swee dam Anglais, et j'ay aytay ansultay affroosemong."

He was a deal more stoopid than the rest on 'em, and pertended not to understand a word as I said, leastways that were his artful way. So I turns to the old gal in 'er keosk, and

says, "You're a wile 'old woller,' and a 'view chatte.'"

She calls arter me somethink about mal onnet, as in course I only give 'er one of my looks for, as must 'ave made 'er feel small like, and off I walks. But bless your 'arts, we 'ad to walk along a 'ot dusty road at the hentrance, as is near arf a mile, till we got to a wine-shop, as were a real mussy, and a werry nice party changed my arf sufferin, and more than that, give us some bottled beer, as drunk that relishin', almost as if it 'ad been the real thing. Not but wot they brews werry well at Strasburg, were it comes from, as is the place as them Germins 'ave been and took away from the French, as is a sore pint with them, thro' the French bein' fond of their beer, and thinks no small beer on it, as the sayin' is, tho' in course we thinks werry different in Ingland, thro' 'avin' sich lovely beer all over the place, and there is some French beer as they calls Bock, as is bitter enuf, tho' none on it can't be called stout.

I couldn't 'elp a-larfin' at Mrs. Tipper, as we met in the Exhibition, as I knowed a gal, when 'er father kep' a general shop in Ratliff 'Ighway, and married to a butterman over in Redriff, as 'ad made a good bit of money over shippin' 'is cart-grease for the sailors. Well, she met me all dressed out, but said as she 'ad got miserable lodgins. So when

we begun a-speakin' about stoppin' at Cook's, she tossed 'er 'ead, and says, "Oh, dear, no! I couldn't go there."

I says, "Indeed? pray, why not?"

She says, "I couldn't do without my 'ome comforts, and shouldn't like the company."

I says, "You may go arf over Paris—ah! all over it—and you won't find arf the 'ome comforts, not at double the price, as Mr. Cook will give you, tho' not includin' wine, sperrits, and beer; and tho' I'm one as relishes my beer, the same as my friends, yet in course they don't take it either at breakfast nor yet at tea, but can 'ave it out of the 'ouse where they dines; as it's one of Mr. Cook's rules as none ain't allowed to be drunk on the premises; not as ever I should be if I lived along with Barclay and Perkins, nor yet worked at a distillery, with gin a-flowin' like water; and as to comfort," I says, "I'm thankful to say as I've got a good 'ome, and if I wasn't 'appy anywheres, I should go to it; but," I says, "as to Mr. Cook, he'd rather 'ave any one's room than 'is company, any day, as the sayin' is; for he ain't got room enuf for 'is customers; and as to company, if the Archbishop of Canterbury and Card'nal Mannin', as, travels with 'im constant, and is all tea-totallers together, ain't good enuf company, why, you'd better ask leave for to go and live along with Queen;

Wictorier, or 'ave rooms at the Lysee along with Marshal MacMarn."

She give a toss of 'er 'ead, and walks on ; and I 'eard 'er say, in a laudible woice, somethink about as vulgar as ever ; and Mrs. Padwick and Miss Pilkinton, as was a-follerin' of me up, as was unbeknown to Mrs. Tipper, when they met 'er, 'eard 'er say, "Poor old Mother Brown gets wuss and wuss, as 'er fit place is Cook's kitchen."

Well, it so 'appened, a day or two arter, I were at the door of Mr. Cook's 'ouse, a-goin' out with my friends for to wisit Savers, and all round, in a charrybang, where they makes the porselaine chiney, when up drives Mrs. Tipper and her 'usban', and she says, "Oh ! my dear Mrs. Brown, I'm so glad I've met you ; we've come to try and get lodgin's at Mr. Cook's ; we've been charged so exorbitant, and made so uncomfortable where we've been stayin', that we've come away all of a hurry here as you recommended."

I says, "I'm sure I never recommended you here, cos I knowed Mr. Cook's 'ouse were full, and likely to be ; besides, you're a deal too uppercrust for to be anywheres with me, as the kitchen is good enuf for."

Jest then the charrybang come up, as is wot they calls the carridge we was a-goin' off in, and I was soon 'elped up, a-leavin' the Tippers and their

luggidge on the pavement, cos they couldn't be took in at Cook's, as I well knowed thro' my friends not bein' able to get as many rooms as they wanted.

We did not go every day to the Exhibition, as is a day's work to see a part on, if you takes it cool, and I'm one of them as don't 'old with makin' a toil of a pleasure, as the sayin' is. Some parties will always grizzle and worrit—and that's Miss Pilkinton all over—a-findin' fault with everybody, and always a-settin' parties right; and as to French, why, she'd make a cat larf over it; not as she'll be put down, as shows 'er hignorance; for tho' I knows my way about, I ain't above bein' told of a fault, the same as a party spoke to me about takin' absant of a evenin', as I were a-doin' merdisinal-like, a-settin' on the Boolevards, and a-feelin' of a chill come over me. Not but wot absant in a gen'ral way is a deal too strong, tho' a flavioir of fennel as is warmin' to the constitution; but that old gentleman as was settin' by and see me a-takin' on it, says—

“Meel pardong, mydam; but why for you take in that absant? Ave you no 'ad your diney?”

I says, “Mussy on us! not 'ad my diney, and past nine o'clock at night!”

“Ah, ah!” he says; “and that absant shall make you a 'arm on your stomach.”

“Lor!” I says, “you don't say so. 'Owever can it?”

"Why," he says, "the absant is good for make the appy-tea."

I says, "I've 'ad my tea, and don't mean to 'ave no supper, thro' avin' 'ad meat with it."

"Ah, ah!" he says, "you did not owe to want to make the appy-tea after the diney."

"Well," I says, "I 'adn't no reg'lar dinner. I only 'ad a snack early, and that's 'ow I come to take a 'eavy tea."

"Biang," he says, "but you shall not to drink the absant so late."

"Oh!" I says, "it won't 'urt me, for I often take a little somethink 'ot afore goin' to bed, or cold without in summer."

So he only shrugs 'is shoulders, and didn't say no more; cos I didn't think as it was manners in 'im to be a-findin' fault with my drinkin', for he was a-takin' brandy with 'is coffee 'isself, with piles of sugar, as is all gout, so couldn't be a tea-totaller. But wot I don't like in tea-totallers as I 'ave knowed, is as they don't never touch no ardent sperrits, even when ill, thro' a-stickin' to their principles, as I calls foolish, tho' when they do kick over the traces, as the sayin' is, they certingly goes a reg'lar mucker, and drinks all the more, so as to make up for lost time and lost lick.

So I took my absant off, as made me feel more comfortable, tho' that old French gent did shrug

up 'is shoulders every time as I took up my glass, a-sayin', "Oh, mardarm, you go to ruin yourself, the stomach, the eyes, the heart, the all. Ah! mon Jew."

So I says, "Thank you, Merci Moosoo, I knows my way about;" and I could 'ave said, "mind your own business," tho' I must say as I thinks the more parties keeps off the absant the better, as is a frightful strong sperrit, and tho' I took mine in lots of water, yet must own as I felt in my 'ead.

Mrs. Padwick, she 'ave been full of 'er terrors for fear as they should give 'er 'orse flesh to eat; but, I says, "There ain't no fear of their doin' it, unless you asks for it, as they considers a delicacy, the same as frogs."

She says, "You don't mean to say as they sells it open and above board; why, I thought as it were only done by them butchers, as swindled their customers in passin' of it off for beef."

"Oh, dear," says Miss Pilkinton, "you can see it rote up all over the place 'coope de cheveux,' as means a slice off horses."

I didn't say nothink, thro' a-knowin' as she were all rong, and will be that positive, so I let 'er 'ave 'er ead, as the sayin' is, and 'ad the larf agin 'er when I pinted out them words rote on a 'air-dresser's shetters, as means, "cut off 'airs."

It's wonderful wot a deal of French I've picked



up, and, no doubt, as a party told me as teaches it, with six months under 'im, nobody wouldn't know as I were not Parisiong born, thro' 'avin' of a hair with me in speakin', as is ally mode de Parry.

I can't ever think why French parties is that touchy over bein' called names, as I shouldn't never know was meant to be insults, nor yet feel 'urt in bein' called a sacred pig, as is only foolishness.

I'm sure I used the word myself quite innercent a-takin' of a drive one day along with Mrs. Padwick, in the Bore de Boolone, as they calls it, as means a wood, tho' I can't think why ever they should call it Boolone, as is 'undreds of miles away, and might as well call it Bore de Cally.

Well, 'er and me was a-ridin' in one of them little opin carriages, when all of a suddin, I says, "Wot's a-clock?"

Says Mrs. Padwick, "I don't know," thro' not 'avin' brought 'er watch, as she values, thro' bein' Padwick's, as she's berried over thirty year, and kep' ever since, not a-goin', in 'er corner drawer, and never wasn't no great shakes, in my opinion.

"So," I says, "I'm sure it's late;" and I says to the coachman, "cochong," I says, "kel ure, siver play?"

He began a-jabberin', and a talkin' werry loud.

So I says, "All right, too drore, ally vous ong.'"

He kep' on a-mumblin' and a-drivin' that slow, as put me out, a-feelin' sure we was late for tea.

So I 'ollers out, "Cochong." He didn't take no notice. So I 'ollers agin, "Cochong, cochong, jer dis, ploo weet, ally, ally."

He wouldn't even turn 'is 'ead, tho' he 'eard, for he kep' on a-mutterin' and a-throwin' up 'is arms.

I calls out louder, "Cochong, cochong," and were jest a-goin' to give 'im a touch on the elber with the pint of my umbrella, when the 'orse give a stumble, as give the carridge a jerk, and throwed me forard that wiolent, as drove my umbrella into that man's back that wiolent, as made 'im jump out of 'is seat.

He was off 'is box in a instant, opens the door, a-'oldin' out 'is 'and, and begun a-'ollerin' at me like wild.

Says, Mrs. Padwick, "He wants you to pay 'im, and get out."

I says, "I won't, not till we gets 'ome."

Says Mrs. Padwick, "Give 'im a somethink to pacify 'im; perhaps he wants a drop of drink, and I'm sure the poor 'orse does."

Well, this ere coachman kep' on a-goin' on, and makin' signs for us to get out, and goin' on that wiolent, as terrified Mrs. Padwick, so I says, "You're right, 'is 'orse is dead beat, let's get out, and 'ave another carridge."

Says Mrs. Padwick, "There ain't none about."

I says, "I can't stand this feller's impidence," cos I were sure as he meant to be rude, so I takes out some money, and says, "take wot you likes."

Jest then, one of the surjons de weel come up, and that coachman begun a-talkin' werry loud, as I'm sure were all about us, for they both kep' on a-shruggin' up their shoulders, and a-goin' on contemptous like, so at last I says, "Preny votter arjong, ay ally voos ong, cochong."

The surjon de weel up and spoke to me rough like, and as to that coachman, he snatched the money, and jumped on 'is box, and off he drove, a'-ollerin' back to that surjon de weel, as only smiled, and turns away with another shrug.

I says to Mrs. Padwick, "We'll dawdle on till a cab or somethink overtakes us."

So on we walks ever so far, till we got to where some cabs was a-standin', and I were a-gettin' dead beat, tho' I had sat down more than once or twice on the road; so I 'ails one, but he only said "Pree;" as was no doubt a tip as he give all the lot, for they all said the same, and we 'ad to crawl along 'alf dead, till we got to a tram as led to Passy, and so got home, when I were a-mentionin' to Mrs. Labbrey, as is the name where we lodged, she told me you couldn't insult any one wuss than callin' of them cochongs, as I thought were the

French for coachman, as it sounds like. She says, "No, cochey is coachman."

Mrs. Labbrey, she 'ave lived in Ingland too; but I must say as she don't make much 'and of 'er English, tho' she understands werry well, and is 'alf sister to Mrs. Pelto's 'usban's fust wife.

It's my opinion as the French, in their 'arts, 'ates bein' republickins.

I'm sure it's a mussy as we've got the Prince of Wales safe 'ome agin, for I do believe as if he said 'arf a word, they'd 'ave took and offered 'im to be King of France, on their bended knees; not as in course we should 'ave let 'im go, tho' we all 'opes as it may be many and many a long day afore he's king over us; but certainly he 'ave been wurshipped like a gravin imidge, as the sayin' is, in France.

The English as lives in Paris is that pleased thro' 'im a-goin' about layin' of the fust stones for some sort of a 'ome for governesses out of place, as shows a kind 'art, and 'ave been got up by a lady as spends all 'er time and money over it. Tho' Brown he's such a one, he only winks when I mentions it.

I says, "Don't jeer, Brown, cos a lady of fortin goes and spends it all in 'elpin' the unfortynit."

So Brown he says, "All right, but," he says, "there's lots as comes out 'ere for governesses, as don't know nothink but what they 'adn't best teach."

"Ah!" I says, "these ladies ain't like that, as is all fust-rate characters, and I've 'eard say that good as they calls 'em the 'English Angels,' as they walks thro' the streets, as you may meet 'em frequent of a evenin' 'urryin' 'ome, cos they're shet out of that institution if not in by nine."

"Ah!" says Brown. "All right."

I says, "For all your nods and winks, I 'olds with parties a-doin' good."

"So do I," says Brown, "and the more English governesses as comes over, the better some of the French will be pleased, thro' bein' that ankshus to learn English."

"Ah!" I says, "no doubt, but I can't think wotever parties is about, givin' away tracks, as one as looked quite the lady, were a-doin' where they sells tickets for the Exhibition. She give me one, least-ways, would 'avedone, but I drored back with a bow."

She says, "Are you so sure as you're in the right way?"

I says, "If I ain't, I'm sure as I shan't get into it by a-follerin' of your tracks;" and on I walks, a-sayin' as it's a great insult to the French, a-per-tendin' to teach them the Gospel, besides, I'm sure there's lots over in Ingland as wants a deal more teachin' than the French.

I've 'eard say as they won't have no battle paintin's in the Exhibition, and right they are, but

if they wants peace, let 'em drop interferin' with other people's religions, as is everybody's own affairs, as to the French, quite time enuf to begin a-teachin' 'em religion, when they asks for information on the pint.

Parties as asked me 'ow long it will take to see the Exhibition well, as in my opinion three days will do it, and three days more for to see Paris and the ongvirougs, sich as Wursales, and San Cloo, as you can get to by water, tramway, or rail, and costs but a trifle ; and as to prices of livin' being raised, that's only for the sake of them as wants to come the toff.

But I will say for them as ain't never see no Exhibitions, it's a grand sight. All them lovely pic-ters and things from everywheres, all over the world ; and to them Japinese, they must 'ave reglar stripped their 'omes to 'ave sent all them lovely things 'ere, the same as the French 'ave been and took down some of their best paintin's and things, to send 'em to that 'ere Trockydeero Pallis, as they calls it, as won't be not quite to rights for a week or two longer, so them as comes later on, will see the most, as there's lovely flowers, a-bloomin' all round, and as for goods, there's everythink all over the place. I must say as the Inglish shines in glass and chinee, let alone the furnitur, as is all ease and helegance. As to Weel de Parry, it's downright

wonderful, and when the walks is rolled proper, will be agreeable enuf for them as can stand it.

In course I may say as it's nothink like wot the Chrishun Pallis in 'Igh Park, as were a reglar fairly land with Queen Wictorier a-walkin' about with 'er royal family; but we can't 'ave that agin, nor yet any of them others as is past and gone. So we did ought to make the best of wot we 'ave got, and a-seein' any one can do it for a five-pound note, leastways that's 'ow Brown 'ave worked it out, but as I says, let them as don't know the ropes, jest ask Mr. Cook, as is a real blessin', and a man myself as I'd trust with a infant from the month, let alone untold tourists, as ladies comes along with, thro' bein' that personal conducted, as they are jest the same as at 'ome, and can keep their-selves to theirselves; but them as is afferble and agreeable will be as 'appy as the day is long, and as to Passy, it's lovely, jest like the seaside for freshness.

In course there is parties as likes to cut a dash, and I says, "Let 'em," only I 'opes as they ain't a-runnin' in dett for to do it; and certingly the French must be enormous rich to lay out all this money jest for to please other people, and no doubt as millions 'll come and see it, as brings money into the place, but in my opinion wants more of a 'ead, as is wot no one can't get on without, tho' cer-

tingly the French did used to think werry little of 'eads, partikler when they was kings' or queens', as they sent a-flyin' about all over the place; let's 'ope they knows better, now-a-days, than to treat any one like that, as no doubt feels now as they wants a 'ead, as it ain't so easy to set 'em on agin when once off.

So I'm a-goin' to wind up with "Weeve La France!" and wishin' of 'er luck, cos I considers Paris a lovely spot, as nobody needn't be afraid to trust theirselves in so long as they ain't kings and queens. Cos the only party as could feel safe in rainin' over 'em would be one of them giants as we did used to read about, so as to 'ave them seven leeged boots for to walk about that Exhibition in, keep a tight 'old of all them clubs, and, above all, 'ave three 'eads at the werry least, and keep 'is eyes about 'im.

I don't think as ever I did see such a party as Miss Pilkinton, for givin' of 'erself hairs all over the place, as didn't consider as stoppin' at Cook's were style, tho' she were glad enuf to go there, and save 'er money, so she went along with a fieldmale friend, as were unbeknown to me except by sight, but wouldn't give 'er name not at Cook's, a-sayin' as she were inconyter, as werry nigh led to a pretty mess, for the perlice as was on the look-out for a gang of swindlers as was a-runnin' about Paris, come



a-inquirin' at Mr. Cook's arter parties, and 'was told as there were an English party as 'adn't no name at all as she'd own to, and would 'ave took and locked Anna Maria up in the Violin, if it 'adn't been as Mr. Cook up and spoke for 'er thro' a-knowin' me, as shows as parties should be open and above board, as the sayin' is, and didn't ought never to be up to no deceptions, partikler in forrin parts, as ain't like bein' in Old England as bein' your native land, in course you can do jest as you please ; and it were all thro' a-keepin' back a name, as Mrs. Obbs got into sich trouble years ago, as my dear mother did used to wash for at the werry beginnin' of the sentry, as 'ad been thro' the French Riverlution, when the streets was a-runnin' with 'uman blood, as were a-flowin' like water in that Plarse de la Concorse, as they may well call it, thro' the crowds as is there, jest the same as them fountings does in Trafalgar Square, as is far more nobler in Paris I must say ; tho', thank goodness, nobody can't say as ever we went on a butcherin' parties on it, tho' it is the spot where they cut off King Charles's 'ead, as they was sorry for when too late ; but did their best in settin' of 'im upon a 'orse as is a noble figger, and did used to cover 'im with oak apples on 'is birthday, as was 'is Restoration, as was all the doin's of the Metherdists under Oliver Crumwell, as my dear mother couldn't never

a-bear, tho' always a-sayin' as no doubt some meant well, as wasn't no apolergy to King Charles, no more than Mrs. Challin a-cleanin' up my silver spoons with scourin' paper, as scratched them that dreadful as will carry the marks, like King Char' to 'is grave, as were found in 'is coffin with 'is 'e off, poor man.

As to Mrs. Obbs, as was a singer, she managed for to 'ide in Paris in the roof of a 'ouse where the parties knowed 'er for months, thro' 'avin' come to Paris with 'er 'usban', as were in the music line of business, and when the Riverlution broke out didn't think no 'arm would 'appen to them, and see both the king and queen led to exercution, as so upset 'em as they spoke out agin sich williny and murder, and then made up their minds, as they'd bolt, but not so easy done as said, for he were took up along with 'is fiddle-case under 'is arm, jest in leavin' Paris, and she that frightened as she never durst foller, so kep' close in the 'ouse for nearly a year and a arf, and takin' it for granted as he'd been and lost 'is 'ead on the scaffoldin' Well, a-thinkin' on 'im dead in course, she never rote 'ome nor nothink, but when things was a little more quieter, got away from Paris, and 'ome she goes to their own lodgin's, as was a second floor in Lisle Street, Lester Fields, as she got to late one evenin', as werry nigh frightened the parlours

to death, and give the fust floor a fit of issterisks thro' jest a-takin' in 'er supper beer, as she come to the door.

Well, in the middle of the row, who should come down but Obbs 'isself, as 'ad been at 'ome over a year, thro' a-gettin' out of prisin' thro' 'is wiolin, as he played in the streets of Paris and begged 'is way 'ome, a-playin' on 'is fiddle all the way, makin' sure as 'is wife 'ad got there fust. When he got to Lisle Street he took on dreadful, my dear mother said, at fust, cos she come to see 'im; but arter a time got over it, and that werry evenin' as 'is wife turned up he were goin' to be married the next day to a young woman as 'er mother were pew-opener at St. Martin's-in-the Fields, as never 'eld up 'er 'ead agin, with 'er weddin' clothes all ready, and 'er and 'er aunt a-drinkin' tea along with Obbs that werry evenin' as Mrs. O. returned; and fell into the fender when Obbs come in agin, a-sayin' as it were 'is wife. For he'd went out of the room to see wot the noise at the street door were about, so 'ad to tell that young woman as he couldn't marry 'er with 'is lawful wife a-'angin' on 'is arm. As is why I always says wherever you are, send a line, as is only a sheet of paper and a antelope, if not a post-card. Cos the stamp don't matter, as no one wouldn't grudge tuppence to know as any one was safe and sound,

partikler in a riverlution like that French one, as were called the rain of terror, thro' a-comin' down that frightful on everybody's 'eads, as must 'ave been rollin' all over the place like a game of bowls, as always gives me a turn whenever I see them French a-'owlin' and dancin' about, tho' they do say as it's only their way of enjoyin' theirselves of a Sunday, but in my opinion might turn into bloodshed any moment. Cos when their in 'igh sperrits they looks on murder as a lark, and delights in bloodshed when they're in the humour for it, as they showed in a-dancin' round the scaffoldin' every day while parties was a-bein' butchered over their 'eads.

So I always 'as my weather-eye open in France, cos tho' heverythink looks so gay and light-'arted, there's a deal of mischief a-lurkin' about, as will no doubt bust out some day, tho' I 'opes it's a long way off.

There won't be no rows as long as this 'ere Exhibition is on, cos in course Queen Wictorier would send over the perlice and the Wolunteers for to purtect all them things as belongs to the Prince of Wales, as he got over in Injer, as shows 'ow they loved 'im, to give 'im all them lovely saddles, as is gold, and them preshus stones, as isn't things as I should care for to ride on myself, tho' in course werry noble to look at, along with

lots of things as is British possessions, tho' made in London; as is noble furnitur and beautiful crockery; not but wot all nations shows the same things, as proves as we're all made alike, whether in Chinee or Japan.

But, law! the French is wonderful industrious and clever, and it's a sight for to stand in that Exhibition and see 'em all a-workin' at their trades, a-makin' of diamons and gold as fast as they can do it, as they sells that cheap; and as to their 'ouses, as they've got models on, they are clever, as uses up every little bit of ground for to build on.

Some of them 'ouses is furnished wonderful, and the lovely flowers as they sets about 'em is a treat to look at; and I must say as now as the Exhibition is all finished, it's a wonderful sight; and as to size, why, it's like a city.

Brown he says as the machinery is a treat for any one as cares about it, from sossige machines to railways; and as to things for use, why, there's everythink, from mixed pins to mixed pickles, as is all 'andy things in their ways; and everythink for edicatin' youth, from slate pencils to the use of the globes; as I never could see no use in myself; but Brown says that's thro' me not understandin' no jometry, nor yet the 'evanly bodies, as they calls 'em; tho' I'm sure no one don't admire a star-light night more than me, partikler a-drivin' up the

Shangs Elleesee of a night, as the gas and the cabs with their lamps looks like consternations all a-runnin' about the place.

I must say as I think the French might do a somethink about their langwidge now, as sich lots of Inglish comes over to Paris, and not send me all over the place a-tryin' to find Mrs. Pelto's sister, as lived at Battynoles, as all the buses and the rail-way 'rites up Batignolles ; so in course I were 'arf the day a-findin' the place ; and wotever is the use a-callin' Nully Newyee, as is where the Duke of Orleens was killed, years ago, thro' 'is 'orses a-runnin' away with 'im into a grocer's shop, as fell on 'is 'ead, and never spoke agin, as was a orful shock, tho' they built a chapel over the shop, as a warnin' to others never to jump out with 'orses a-takin' fright ; and might 'ave been king now but for that. Carridges is plentiful and cheap all over the place, and tho' they drives careless, and nearly tips you out a-turnin' of the corners that sharp, partikler over them for the trams, and always goes on their 'rong side, yet wonderful few axidences.

I considers that if them French 'ad 'ad their right senses in their 'eads, and 'ad opened this 'ere Exhibition or Expersition, as they calls it, jest a month later, it would 'ave been the grandest sight as ever was seen ; and I considers as them as didn't rush there all of a 'urry, and 'ave waited till now,

scores over them, as the sayin' is, as was there for the openin' ; as spilte every rag of clothes as I 'ad on me, thro' a-takin' of the gloss off my green satting, with my shawl all spots ; not as the patch jest on my knee was rain, but a chockelet hice as a lady spit out all of a 'urry, thro' not bein' prepared for it bein' that cold, with a 'oller tooth at the back of 'er 'ead, as made 'er scream agin ; and young Dufferly he sent 'arf a bottle of red wine into my lap, thro' a-jumpin' up with 'is mouth full when the Prince of Wales come in for to open the Palace along with that there Marshal and them other crowned 'eads, as in course looked mean by the side of real royal families, as is used to sich things thro' bein' born to it.

They're a-makin' Paris werry lovely all over, and in my opinion any one can see it in a week if they're put in the way, cos there's a many as don't know their ways about, and don't like to ask, will pass by the place as they wants to see a dozen times without knowin' it, as is where Mr. Cook steps in that 'andy, and will take you all round everywhere in a charrybang ; so you can see the country and the town too

Some places is orful dear, for I 'eard a old gent a-sayin' he'd been charged three francs for three fresh 'errins on the Boolwards, and 'ad paid about fifteen shillins a night for 'is bed, on the top floor of a 'otel.

It's werry foolish of them 'otel-keepers a-hog-mentin' their prices, cos it frightens parties from comin', and wot I likes with Cook's is you can reckon what you are a-spendin'

I see a lady there as 'ave been a-travellin' constant along with Mr. Cook, as is that purtection thro' bein' known all over the world, and that respected thro' bein' that personal conducted, as nobody dursn't take no liberty with; and, as that old gent told me, as 'ad paid that orful price of arf a crown for 'is three fresh 'errins, he'd been and spent five-and-twenty pound in six days, and not estravagant neither, as nobody can't call fresh 'errins for dinner. In my opinion he'd been 'avin' of a good time at some of them swell restorongs; cos you can get a werry good dinner for about three and sixpence, as is wot I calls a-cuttin' of it fat; but Brown he's often dined for two shillins at them bullion 'stablishments, as is where you gets your money's worth.

So I say to every young man as wants to know the world, go and see this 'ere Exhibition, for it's jest like a-wisitn' all the forrin countries as you might think savidges till you come to know their ways; and I must say as I agrees with Brown as England cuts a noble figger in all but 'er Track Society, as it ain't good taste for to 'ave a place give it by the Government to sell Bibles and sich



like, and then turn round, give away tracks as says as Catholics is no better than 'eathens, as is a insult they wouldn't like the French to offer to Protestants. Not as the French cares, as is that light-'arted, and turns up their noses over all their subjics, and when they goes in for religion sticks to their own, considerin' all others as ignorance and rubbish.

It's a pity as pollytics ain't done away with in France, and then they might live in peace; but there won't never be no quiet, nor yet peace, at 'ome or abroad, not so long as any penny-a-liner, as they calls 'em in England, or a pettyfoggin' lawyer can 'ave a chance of bein' the 'ead of affairs. Not but wot some milingtary party is sure to come along with a harmy, and jest put 'is paw down on the lot. As to goin' to Paris, it ain't really nothink now-a-days, neither time nor money; and when they gets the Tunnel done, why, we shall be there afore you can say "Jack Robison," as the sayin' is.

Not as I should fancy a-goin' under the sea like that, but Brown he says, "Rubbish! you're jest as safe under the sea as over it," and I'd certingly rather go that way than a balloon, as might get cort in the wind and carried all over the world; not as ever I disbelieves anythink may not 'appen, cos arter the fonygraf you can't never say as nothink's impossible and can't be done.

For my part I do believe as the French is capable of anythink except a cup of tea, as is where they breaks down, and in my opinion is thro' the water bein' that 'ard, and don't dror it proper, as is all the better for them as comes in late, cos the longer it stands the better it is; not as it matters to me, cos I always travels with a pound, and always my own little flat bottle, cos I do not 'old with French sperrits, as they never keeps in bottle long enuf for to get the fire out.

Some of the French is worry down upon us for not 'avin' 'elped 'em agin the Germans; but as I were a-sayin' it ain't likely as Queen Wictorier would go to war agin 'er own dorter's 'usban's family, jest cos Lewy Napoleon took it into 'is 'ead for to try and take Berlang, as I 'eard 'em a-shoutin' in the streets myself, jest afore the war broke out.

Some on 'em is worry down on Queen Wictorier, about Lewy Napolcon's widder being treated like a Hempress. But, as I says to Mrs. Pelto, it shows a feelin' 'art in Queen Wictorier not to show no difference now; not but wot she knows as she ain't no longer a Hempress, but makes believe to treat 'er jest the same.

The French don't like it, any more than our lettin' some of them wile Communerds live over 'ere.

"But," says I, "bother your pollytics, wot do

we care wot you like or wot you don't; and as to sayin' as the day of our bein' trod under is a-comin', why, in course it may be; but any'ow it won't be brought on by interferin' where we ain't no call to, and if you French will show all your cleverness in wot you can do in the way of improvement, why, we English will come and see 'em, and pay for 'em too, if you don't come it too strong in the way of charge. Not as charges need be so 'eavy, if parties goes the right way to work, and gets a few straight tips jest as I can give any one as ain't too proud to be learnt, nor don't want gas over in Paris, tho' preaps only 'Oxtin, 'Ackney, or Islin'ton at 'ome, as would be the same as Camberwell or Brixton a-givin' of theirselves hairs jest like Belgrave Square.

To hear some of them French talk about chargin', you'd think they wanted to keep parties away from Paris, as I'm sure 'ave frightened many a one in England, thro' a-'earin' as butter was 'arf-a-crown a pound; and I must say as they charges frightful for washin', and not done well neither, and sent it 'ome sich a colour as give me quite a turn; tho' they can get up linen wonderful, jest like new, when they pleases, as they calls a blanchy soos on fang; and in my opinion they'll make a mess of their Expersition if they don't come down in their prices, as is carryin' a joke too far for to go and

make you pay twice as much agin for everythink, as ain't 'onesty, as is the best policy, as the sayin' is.

It ain't them as likes to waller in gilded wice as enjoys theirselves most in this world, but them as can spend their money so as to make the most on it, as they've worked 'ard for, and not feel as they're a-robbin' the till, nor yet the butcher and baker at 'ome, whilst a-spreadin' of theirselves all over Paris in carriages, and a-lookin' down on me on a tram or a bus, as can pay my way; not as I means to menshun names, tho' I see their scornful looks in passin' me, as I'm sure were treated like a royal family all over Paris, nor yet sucered at in gettin' into a bus, tho' often a tight fit; but a light 'art don't take no umbrage at nothink, as is 'ow I come to 'ave a good time over this, as is rightly called the Great Expersition, as certingly the French 'as reason to be proud on, and Inglish too, as is both a-tryin' their werry best in the way of workin', as is wot they did ought to do, and then there wouldn't be no strikes nor trades' unions in Ingland, nor yet Frenchmen a-botherin' of their 'eads over Woltaire and Jones of Ark; cos, as I were a-sayin' to Miss Pilkinton, "Wotever is the use comparin' of 'em, as was oppersite sects, and if they was born the same day, no relations, thro' bein' different fathers and mothers, as is over five 'undred years ago; so let bygones be bygones."

Miss Pilkinton she says as she loves Woltaire thro' bein' that free thinker.

"Ah!" I says, "he was a deal more than that; and in course them French as agrees with 'im in lovin' the Prooshins, and sayin' as the French is 'arf tigers and 'arf monkeys, they did ought for to 'oner 'is memory. As to that other poor gal, she no doubt did love France; and tho' I don't 'old with any young woman a-dressin' up like a sojer, and listin' in the harmy, as 'ave been done often; likewise the navy, the same as Billy Taylor, as the song's about. Yet, if any Prooshin or Rooshin was to dare to invade England, their ain't no man, woman, nor child as wouldn't fly to harms, the same as that there Maid of Orleans, as were only a maid-of-all-work, but a good gal, and would glory in dyin' at the stake for 'er country. But as to them as goes agin natur', decency, and order, why, they're a downright cuss to their country, and don't deserve to be English or French, but is a no nation lot, as is the werry dregs of all countries; and if they was to make a exhibition of theirselves, would be a pretty turnout, only fit for where they're a-goin' 'eadlong, as will be a good riddance of bad rubbish, wherever they goes. So," I says, "'ere's three cheers for France, and confound all 'er enemies!"

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